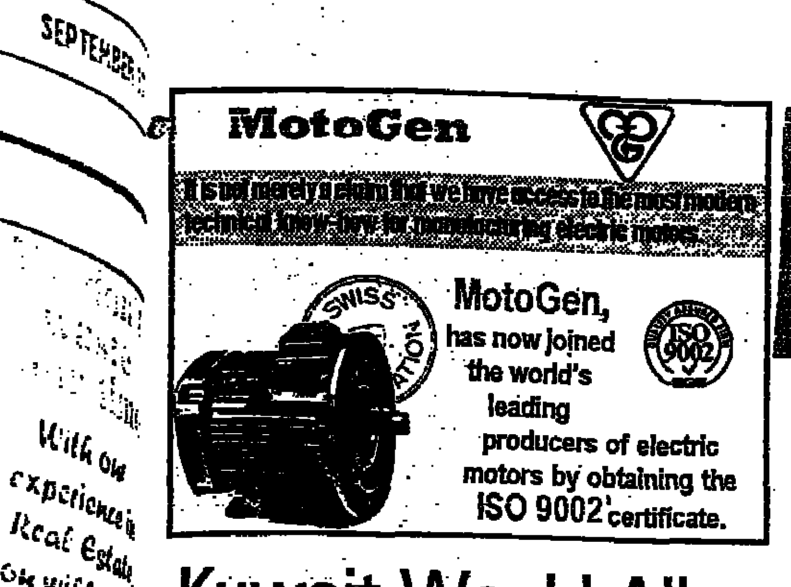




4-Page Special Issue Inside

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Refugee Camp in Iran Shelled by Iraqi, KDP Forces

BANEH — 14 Iraqi Kurdish refugees were killed or wounded in Siranband Refugee Camp in northwestern Iran on Wednesday by artillery shelling of the joined forces of Iraqi troops and Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

The shelling by artillery and motor launchers against the camp near the border city of Baneh started at noon during which 4 refugees, 3 of them childern, were killed and 10 others were wounded

Some 35,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees who have fled thier country following recent conflicts in northern Iraq, are accommodated in this border refugee camp.

(IRNA)

Kuwait Would Allow U.S. Ground Attack on Iraq

CAIRO — Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah has said his country would be willing to allow U.S. troops to use its territory to launch an attack on Iraq if Kuwait were threatened.

"If there is a threat to Kuwait, I cannot stop anyone from crossing the border to protect my people and my land," Sheikh Sabah said in an interview published Wednesday by the London-based Arab newspaper *Al-Hayat*.

Sheikh Sabah stressed that Kuwait had approved new U.S. troop deployments on its territory because of Iraqi threats.

"Had I not been convinced that there were (threats), I would not have accepted the deployment of American troops in Kuwait," he said in an interview conducted in London.

He also denied that differences had emerged within the Kuwaiti government over the deployment of the U.S. forces.

"I can assure you that there

(Contd on Pg.14)

Egypt Irritated by Outcome of Rafsanjani's Tour

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran has repeatedly denied charges claiming its involvement in the abortive attempt on the life of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on June 26, 1995.

Making the above remark in

(Contd on Pg.14)

Congratulations

Today, Jamadial-Awwal 5, is the birth anniversary of Hazrat Zainab (SA), the heroine of Karbala and Ashura event. The Tehran Times staff hereby congratulate the Muslims all over the world, particularly nurses, on this auspicious occasion which is marked as the Nurse Day due to her devotions.

Editor in Chief

Please see article on page 4

Women Expected to Be Further Active in Religious, Scientific Areas



Tehran Times Service

ORUMYIEH — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said here on Wednesday women are required to perform religious activities, acquire scientific knowledge and familiarize themselves with the current social issues.

Speaking to a large crowd of women from West Azarbaijan Province on the occasion of the Nurse Day, the Leader said Iranian women had an effective role in the victory of the Islamic

(Contd on Pg.14)

TEHRAN TIMES

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In the Name of Allah

The chiefs of those who disbelieved from among his people said: Most surely we see you in folly, and most surely we think you to be of the liars.

(HOLY QORAN)(7:66)

OPINION

Mubarak Bringing Disgrace on Egypt

Almost every Egyptian knows by now that whenever there are domestic problems in their country due to their president's inefficiency, the Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak looks for an spcapegoat to take the blame for his lack of wisdom and statesmanship. The Egyptians are also well aware that in such cases, their naive president always follows the prototype introduced by the Great Satan (U.S.), namely portraying Iran as the source of political unrest in the Arab world.

In accordance with the Great Satan's mischievous propaganda campaign against Iran, the miniature Pharaoh of Egypt, once in a while, charges Tehran with involvement in an attempt on his life in 1995, ignoring the fact that a bullet is too much cost for his life.

Indeed, until the death of former Egyptian President Gamal Abd an-Nasir, Egypt was viewed by the Arab states as the standard-bearer for Arab rights due to the statesmanship of its president. However, the role presently played by Mubarak in Egypt's politics is far from that of late Nasir, bearing no comparison with it. Nasir liberated his country from the tyranny of dictators, leading it to freedom. But Mubark, a reactionary politician, is forcing Egypt to regress to the era of oppression and tyranny under the yoke of the arrogant powers headed by the United States.

Like his masters in the White House, Mubarak knows well that the unfounded allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran will get nowhere because the public opinion is no longer influenced by the political humbug uttered purley out of self-interest.

Perhaps the Egypt's miniature Pharaoh is hallucinating the leadership of the Arab world, dreaming of the position left vacant by late Nasir. That could be the reason why he blindly supports the baseless claims made by some Persian Gulf tiny Arab states. Mubarak's support for the UAE reminds one of the saying "Physician heal thyself." If the would-be Arab leader were wise, he would do something to save his own throne rather than offering prescriptions to others. Above all, how can a traitor to the Arab states, particularly the the Palestinian nation, who is hand in glove with the criminal Zionists be qualified to assume the Arab leadership?

Iran has always stressed that the Muslims' interests in the face of their sworn enemies can be safeguarded only through unity and solidarity among Islamic countries. Unfortunately, the silly remarks, policies and measures of the Egyptian president have so far only served to widen the gap among some Muslim countries, undermining the Islamic unity. With a wise statesman at the helm, Cairo can attain the leadership of the Arab world, as it has done in the past. But as long as Mubarak is holding office, he will bring nothing except disgrace on the Egyptian nation.

In short, to restore Egypt's past glory and honor, the Egyptian policy-making body should adopt policies furthering the interests of the Islamic Ummah and not those of the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

Pak FM: Iran, Pakistan Cooperate to Resolve Afghan Problem

ATHENS — Pakistani Foreign Minister Asif Ahmed Ali in an interview with Egyptian daily *Al-Ahram* Tuesday called on India to change its policy towards Pakistan and to open a new page in bilateral relations.

Asif accused the new Indian government of adopting an "extremist position on the issue of Kashmir and on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The interview to the Egyptian paper was given at the Pakistani minister's countryside home near Lahore.

He said holding of elections in Kashmir would not resolve the Kashmiri problem and called for the implementation of UN resolutions.

"But we still hope that the Indian government would stop issuing slogans, and open with us a new page and change their position towards Pakistan."

Referring to the situation in Afghanistan, he said Iran and Pakistan were cooperating to resolve the conflict there.

He said an agreement on an oil refinery project between Iran and Pakistan was signed three to four years ago.

"Serious studies about it are continuing. There are some problems of financing with both countries. The project requires international financing. And there are problems due to the American sanctions on Iran," he said.

(IRNA)

VELAYATI TO TURKISH DAILY:

Turkey Should Protect Its Borders Itself

ANKARA – Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said in an interview with a Turkish daily that the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) has no camp inside Iran and that Turkey should protect its borders itself.

The daily *Istanbul* quoted Velayati in its Tuesday issue as saying if Turkey built up security measures on its borders, the allegation on the PKK infiltration from Iran to Turkish territory would come to an end.

The Iranian foreign minister said Iran wants no trouble on its border with Turkey and the developments along Turkish borders have nothing to do with Iran.

The Turkish daily quoted Velayati as saying the security officials of the two countries could reach a common view through negotiations on the unrest and security problems in Turkey.

Velayati added that Iran is against any loss or disturbance suffered by Turkey from terrorism.

On Iranian diplomacy towards northern Iraq, Velayati said no independent Kurdish government could be formed in the region.

Stressing that Iran does not support the PUK leader Jalal Talebani, he rejected the rumor of presence of Talebani in Iran and said Iran does not take sides in Iraqi Kurdish conflicts.

He cautioned the regional countries against interfering in Iraqi affairs and said Ankara should be careful with the presence of counterrevolutionaries inside Turkey. He stressed that Iran is against the presence of counter-revolutionaries on Turkish soil.

According to the daily, Velayati stressed necessity of preserving territorial integrity of Iraq and said Tehran is willing to cooperate and exchange views with Turkey and Syria.

The daily quoted Velayati as saying the problems in the region should be settled by the countries in the region, not by the aliens.

(IRNA)

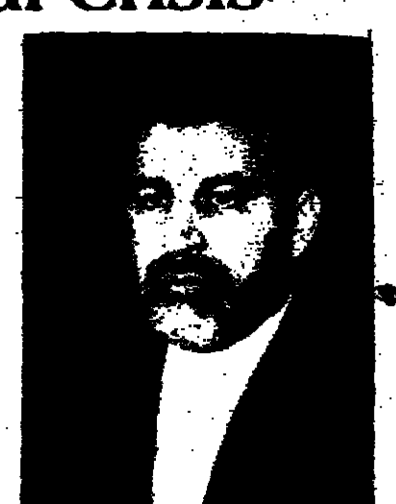
Iran, Russia Discuss Regional Crisis

MOSCOW — The visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi in a meeting here Tuesday night with Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Yevgeny Primakov reviewed promotion of the two countries' ties and the latest regional developments particularly crises in northern Iraq, Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

Stating that Russia attaches great importance to Iran in its foreign policy, Primakov termed the imminent visit of Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri to Moscow as a major step towards expansion of bilateral relations.

Referring to similar stands of the two countries over the recent Iraqi developments, he emphasized on the territorial integrity of Iraq. He made it clear that Russia opposes foreign intervention in the Iraqi internal affairs.

Expressing concern over the recent developments in Afghanistan, the Russian minister called for consultation with Iran in order to restore peace and tranquility to Afghanistan.



VAEZI

As for situation in Tajikistan, he noted that establishment of peace and stability in that country is to the interest of both Iran and Russia.

Expressing satisfaction over the mutual confidence between the two countries, Vaezi said that Tehran-Moscow relations are moving on the right track.

He submitted a formal invitation from Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to his Russian counterpart to visit Tehran. The invitation was welcomed by Primakov.

Vaezi arrived here Tuesday on a three-day official visit. *(IRNA)*

IPU Will Close Gap Between Islamic Nations

BEIJING — Islamic countries' parliamentary delegations to the 96th session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in their first meeting here Tuesday approved formation of a programming committee for the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

As the coordinator of the group of the Islamic countries, the Iranian delegation played a key role in the establishment of the Parliamentary Union of Islamic countries.



LARIJANI

In Tuesday's meeting, the Iranian delegation was appointed in charge of pursuing the matter and preparing report from the activities of Parliamentary Union of the Islamic states.

The deputy chairman of the Iranian Majlis Foreign Policy Commission Mohammad Javad Larijani who led the Iranian delegation to the 96th session of IPU said that since three years ago, both Iran and Pakistan initiated their efforts aimed at setting up Islamic Inter-Parliamentary Union.

He pointed out that formation of the Islamic union would be effective in closing the gap and creating proximity between Islamic countries.

The Iranian parliamentarian also met with the head of Foreign Policy Committee in People's Congress of China, Ju Li Yang on Tuesday.

The Chinese officials said that the U.S. 'impudence' and its 'autocratic and arbitrary claim' on the world is the most dangerous political game yet devised in the contemporary history of diplomacy.

He stressed on his country's vehement opposition to the U.S. hegemonistic policies in the framework of such questions as 'human rights', and to the American 'tension-escalating' diplomacy in the Persian Gulf.

Welcoming the mutually supportive positions of the two countries' delegations at the 96th assembly of the Inter-Parliamentarian Union, currently being held in Beijing, Yang said Chinese support for Iran at the conference was a 'political decision' taken by China.

The Chinese Foreign Policy Committee head pointed out that some countries were not happy with the cordial relations that exist between the two nations, adding that it was quite obvious that they would be the countries whose interests were in conflict with mutual understanding among the other nations around the world.

During the meeting, the head of the Iranian delegation, underlined that the U.S. policies did neither have any followers in Iran nor in China, and that such a diplomacy was considered undigestible even among its allies.

Larijani referred to the long standing Sino-Iranian historical ties, expressing his pleasure at the common stance of the two nations on the American hegemonic policy at the conference.

(IRNA)

Pakistan to Extradite Criminals Wanted by Iran

ISLAMABAD — Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar on Tuesday assured the visiting Iranian delegation that Pakistan would extradite any person wanted on criminal charges in Iran.

Talking to a ten-member Iranian team led by Mohammad Fallah, secretary Narcotics Division, he also assured help in the recovery of stolen vehicles smuggled

(Contd on Pg.15)

Ali Shah Leaves After Signing Letter of Understanding

TEHRAN — The visiting Pakistani Chief Justice Sajjad Ali Shah left here Wednesday after signing a letter of understanding on judicial cooperation with Iran.

Prior to his departure, he told reporters that his visit was aimed at exchanging views with Iranian judicial officials on Islamizing laws in Pakistan.

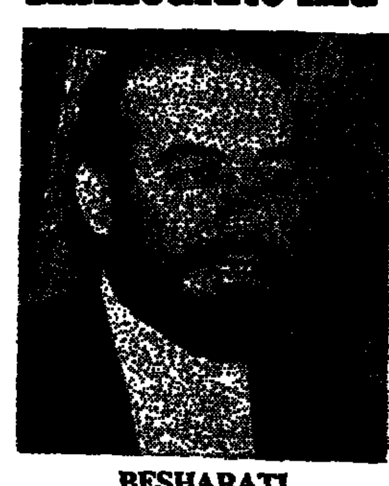
Praising the Islamic Republic's policy towards Muslim countries and the neighboring states, he expressed hope that Muslim nations would stand against their common enemies through unity.

Head of Iran's Supreme Court Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammadi Gilani, who was present at the airport to see off the Pakistani delegation, said that ways of following up the previous agreements reached between the two countries and judicial issues were discussed with the Pakistani delegation.

Countering drug traffickers and strengthening the two countries' border posts at the border region were also discussed during the meetings held between the Iranian and Pakistani officials, Ayatollah Gilani added.

Ali Shah, heading a high-ranking judicial delegation arrived here last week. *(IRNA)*

Besharati Appeals to UNHCR for Immediate Aid to Iraqi Refugees



BESHARATI

TEHRAN – Iran's Interior Minister, Ali Mohammad Besharati, attending the country's National Security Council here Tuesday called on the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to immediately dispatch assistance for the Iraqi refugees stranded on the borders of the western parts of Iran due to the outbreak of severe fightings in the Kurdistan of Iraq.

Expressing regret over continuation of the northern Iraqi conflicts, Besharati said that due to Islamic norms and humanitarian reasons, the Islamic Republic of Iran had sheltered the Iraqi refugees in some camps and has provided them with needed foodstuff and necessary medical attention.

Some of the items of agenda discussed during the National Security Council session were security affairs related to the western parts the country, conditions of the Iraqi refugees, transit of goods via Iranian soil and provision needed for setting up necessary facilities for transitting goods from the country's ports based on the international conventions. *(IRNA)*

Kenyan Press Lauds Iran's Development

NAIROBI — Despite efforts made by the U.S. and certain European countries to isolate it, Iran is firmly proceeding towards development and progress, wrote a Nairobi daily.

The Nairobi-based daily *Nation* wrote in an article in its Tuesday issue under the title of "Why Does the West Curse the New Iran?" that President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani paid a visit to Kenya when the West has increasingly lost its interests in the region because of the decline in the strategic importance of the region following the collapse of the ex-Soviet Union.

(Contd on Pg.15)

Russia, Croatia Discuss Economic Cooperation

MOSCOW — Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Bolshakov met Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic, Bolshakov's spokesman told ITAR-TASS.

The sides discussed trade and economic relations between the two countries, focusing on ways of giving a new impetus to bilateral economic cooperation, increasing mutual trade turnover, and also on speedily working out several joint projects.

They also focused on the problems of establishing a legislative basis for bilateral cooperation, as well as on the restoration of cooperation in machine- and ship-building.

the two sides also discussed the ways of settling the debt of the former USSR. (IRNA/ITAR-TASS/ACSNA)

Cuba Says U.S. Law Has Not Stopped Investment

HAVANA — Cuba has negotiated deals with 40 companies in the eight months since a U.S. law punishing non-U.S. firms for doing business in Cuba went into effect, a senior government official said.

"The general reaction of investors in Cuba has been positive. They have not pulled out," said Ibrahim Ferradaz Garcia, Cuba's minister of foreign investment, at a one-day seminar on the Helms-Burton law on Tuesday.

The U.S. legislation is designed to internationalize the 34-year-old U.S. embargo on Cuba by slapping sanctions on non-U.S. companies doing business with assets seized in the 1959 Cuban revolution.

It has been opposed outside the United States.

The European Union has rejected it. Canada has introduced legislation to counteract it and it was "energetically rejected" by Latin American and Caribbean leaders in a summit on September 3.

Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina blamed the Helms-Burton law on pre-election posturing. "Nothing serious, in politics at least, can be expected in the United States until all this electoral craze is over," he said, thanking the countries who have rejected it.

Ferradaz Garcia said that another 100 projects were in the negotiating process but that 40 had been wrapped up since Helms-Burton came into effect eight months ago.

The minister did acknowledge some problems.

"From the point of view of fear in some companies, it has hurt U.S. because it stops or delays some investment and complicates others," he said.

But he added that business leaders also see "an additional protection for their own investment, because it totally eliminates the possibility of competition from U.S. firms."

As of late August, 240 companies with foreign capital were involved in 34 branches of the economy. Investment funds come from 50 countries. (AFP)

Treaty on Rescheduling Moldova's Debt Signed in Kishinev

KISHINEV — A treaty on rescheduling Moldova's debt to repay Russia state credits was signed at the first session of the inter-government Commission for Economic Cooperation between Russia and Moldova.

Moldova's Vice-Premier Valentine Kunev told a news conference that the agreement on debt rescheduling applied to a technical and state credits granted by Russia in 1992. Kunev said that the two sides agreed the reschedule payments to recompense for the main part of the debt worth over $100 million to a later period, but did not specify the deadline. According to the Moldovan vice-premier, Moldova honestly observes the schedule of interest-rate payments.

The two sides also signed an agreement on possible establishment of joint enterprises in the defense industry to fulfill Russian orders which might be placed at Moldova's electronic, machine-building and instrument-building enterprises whose production will be used in Russia, Serov said.

At a meeting with the Russian vice-premier on Tuesday Moldovan President Mircea Snegur appealed to Russia, asking to support Moldova with energy resources needed to prevent a deep energy crisis facing Moldova in the forthcoming winter. (IRNA/ITAR-TASS/ACSNA)

Petrosyan: Iran One of the Biggest Business Partners of Armenia

BAKU — 'Azadlyg' an Azeri Baku-based daily here Tuesday wrote that the Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has expressed his satisfaction over expansion of economic relations between Tehran and Yerevan.

Petrosyan, describing his country's relations with the neighboring countries, said that Yerevan began its economic cooperation with Tehran four years ago and that at present, Iran is one of the biggest economic partners of his country.

Indicating that Armenia and Russia have boosted their multilateral relations, he termed the existing relations between his country and those of the neighboring states as 'sensitive', pointing out that only through a minor miscalculation bilateral relations could be alienated.

Referring to Yerevan-Ankara bilateral relations he termed Turkish neutral policy toward Karabagh crisis as a 'great political success for Armenia.'

The Armenian president hoped that Ankara and Yerevan would try to improve their political, economic and trade bilateral relations despite a long standing enmities.

The Azeri daily has not mentioned the date or the source of the interview with the Armenian president. (IRNA)

China Claims to Have Curbed Agricultural Land Loss

BEIJING — China claimed Wednesday to have halted the rapid loss of its agricultural land to construction projects, which had fuelled fears that the world's most populous nation would not be able to feed itself.

"So far this year, the space of cultivated land occupied by new construction projects continued to decrease, and more barren or idle land has been brought into cultivation," said Zou Yuchuan, director of the State Land Administration (SLA).

Zou said new construction projects claimed more than 21,800 hectares (53,800 acres) of cultivated land in the first half of the year, down 2.6 percent or 560 hectares (1,380 acres) compared to the same period last year, according to Xinhua.

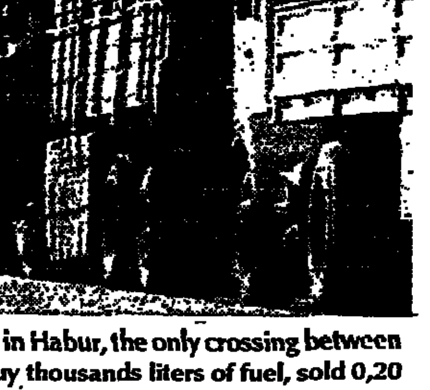
Meanwhile, 60,000 hectares (148,200 acres) of previously barren or idle land was put into production, 1,000 hectares (2,470 acres) above the amount for the same 1995 period.

"However, rampant encroachment upon or destruction of cultivated land is still a widespread phenomenon," Zou warned.

China plans to increase its arable land by 6.7 million hectares (16.5 million acres) by 2010 by opening up wasteland or reclaiming idle land, and maintaining a constant balance between the shrinkage and growth of cultivated land areas.

But arable acreage has declined at an annual rate of 400,000 hectares in recent years and the current per capita occupation of agricultural land is 0.1 hectare.

China's self-sufficency in grain became an issue of international concern last year following the publication of a book by the U.S.-based Worldwatch Institute which warned that China's grain imports could be as high as 369 million tons by 2030. (AFP)



HABUR, Turkey (September 17): Hundreds of Turkish trucks wait in Habur, the only crossing between Turkey and Iraq. Every day about 1,500 trucks drive to Iraq to buy thousands liters of fuel, sold 0,20 Frencs france (4 cents), to sell it in Turkey. Strong oil prices have slashes budget deficits of Persian Gulf Arab states to their lowest ever level and some of them are projected to record surpluses this year, officials said.

(AFP PHOTO)

World Heading for Food Crisis

LONDON — The world was being pushed into an era of food shortages, where solution appear to be elusive, a leading environmentalist has warned.

President of the Washington-based Worldwatch Institute, Lester Brown, was quoted Tuesday as saying that the impeding crisis was brought about by a scarcity of fish and water, the limitations of fertilizers and rapid economic growth in Asia.

Speaking on the eve of a London conference, where he was expected to repeat his doom-laden warning, he said the world was moving from half a century dominated by surpluses to an era 'dominated by scarcity and rising grain prices'.

Basic technologies, Brown said, which revolutionized food production between 1950 and 1990 were developed almost a century ago, but biotechnology had so far 'failed to develop a single high-yielding variety of wheat, rice or corn.'

World grain stocks fell earlier this year to an equivalent of 48 days of consumption, and although they are expected to recover to 54 days after this autumn's harvest, he said the level was 'still perilously low.'

In the past, extra fertilizer use had offset the decline in the amount of land harvested for grain per head of population, but this year's grain harvests in the U.S. would not rebuild depleted global stocks, the environmentalist warned.

He expected that land values would escalate and that wealth could shift from manufacturing to agriculture.

Brown also warned that global fish stocks were under such pressure that more fishing was likely to reduce the catch and that water levels were also falling in all major food-producing regions.

Meanwhile, Asian economies were growing at 8 percent a year and with 3.1 billion people, it was an 'infinitely larger population working up the food chain faster than ever before,' he was quoted by the Financial Times newspaper on Tuesday. (IRNA)

Int'l Conference on Investment in Turkmenistan Opens

TEHRAN — An international conference on investment in Turkmenistan's economic plan opened with the participation of represntatives from 16 countries of the world in Ashkhabad on Monday.

The participants countries at the conference include Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria, Oman, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait and Uinted Arab Emirate.

At the inaugural speech, the President of the Republic of Turkmenistan, General Saparmurat A. Niyazov, underlined that the economic reforms were based on his country's entry into the international economic system. (IRNA)

Russia Links Economic Growth With Smaller Budget Spending

MOSCOW — Russia can achieve economic stabilization only if it cuts the budget spending to less than 30 percent of the gross domestic product in the next few years, director of the Economic Analysis Institute Andrei Illarionov told a news conference in Moscow yesterday.

The draft 1997 budget, which was submitted by the government to the state Duma, provides for budget spending at an amount of 35.4 percent of the gross domestic product, he said. This index was 35 percent in the first quarter of this year, and 43 percent in the second quarter. A high level of state spending is the reason for the on-going production recession against the background of financial stabilization in summer 1996, Illarionov noted.

Several countries, including China, achieved a considerable economic growth by cutting state spending, he said.

It is also necessary to overcome the investment crisis and cut the domestic and foreign debts, noted the analyst. Over $80 billion were spent by Russia in the past eleven years to service the foreign debt and pay the interest. About $50 billion were exported from Russia over the same period. (IRNA/ITAR-TASS/ACSNA)

France Insists It Will Be at the Maastricht Church on Time

PARIS — France, with a handout from France telecom and hopes of 2.3 percent growth next year, will qualify as a founder of a single currency under a highly tuned budget unveiled on Wednesday.

President Jacques Chirac said that the finance bill was "compatible with France's European commitments and in line with harmonization of French-German policy."

He told the cabinet meeting which approved the draft budget: "For the first time in the history of the fifth republic, there is a real effort to halt the increase of public spending."

The draft finance bill contained no surprises but confirmed that efforts to cut the budget deficit have fallen far short of initial targets, partly because of recent tax cut, against a background of weak growth.

In an effort to bolster growth, the government announced that people with a particlar savings plan, and who did not pay income tax, would be authorized to draw a 10-year bonus early, making available a total of 15 billion francs.

Prime Minister Alain Juppe said that the money would be "injected into the economy" and it was therefore "a budget to support the economy."

Finance Minister Jean Arthuis said that net tax cuts would amount to 13 billion francs in 1997 but also announced an increase in the tax on petrol. Budget Minister Alain Lamassoure said that public expenditure would be held steady at 1.552 trillion francs next year.

For financial markets the outstanding questions are whether planned strikes this autumn will cause the government to compromise as it did last autumn, whether the cuts can be applied on a lasting basis and whether the economy will grow by enough to produce the expected revenue.

On the outcome will depend the extent to which France can meet the 3.0 percent target in absolute terms, or will have to argue that it is within qualifying range as is permitted by the treaty.

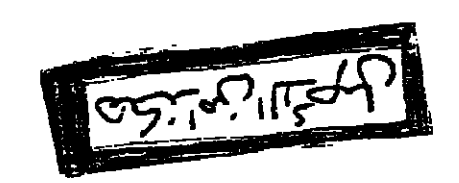
Parliament Speaker Philippe Seguin, a member of the governing RPR Party, chose the day of the budget statement to issue a call in the daily Le Monde for "flexibile interpretation" of the Maastricht criteria. (AFP)

Ambassador Discusses Northern Iraq With Kuwaiti Minister

TEHRAN — Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait Gholam Ali San'ati met with Kuwait's Minister of the Interior Sheikh Ali Sabah as-Salem al Sabah in Kuwait on Wednesday.

In the meeting the two sides discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest including the current crisis in northern Iraq and the refugee rush towards the Iranian borders, and stressed on cooperations in this regard.

Iran has already granted shelter to 39,000 Iraqi Kurds who have fled the joint offensive on northeastern Iraq by the Baghdad government and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP). Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Kurds refugees are waiting for entry at Iranian borders. (IRNA)



Birthday of Hazrat Zainab (SA):

Heroine of Islam

The fifth of Jamadi-ul-Awwal marks the birth anniversary of Hazrat Zainab (AS), a lady characterized as a scholar, interpreter of Qoran, a social orator, a pious mystic, brave and valorous, generous and magnanimous, courageous and untiring.

This honorable lady was born on the fifth of Jamadi-Ul-Awwal of 6 A.H. (After Hijrah) in an unadorned house located in Medina. She passed away on the 14th of Rajab of 62 A.H. in Damascus at the age of 56.

Her eternal resting abode in Damascus has now become a shrine for those who are fond of her.

HER FAMILY STATUS

Hazrat Zainab (AS) was the granddaughter of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) and the daughter of Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS). When she was 6 years old, her mother Hazrat Fatimih (AS) (the daughter of the Holy Prophet) passed away. From then on, she was educated by her father. She was extremely respected by her father and brothers Hassan and Hussein (AS).

MARRIAGE

Many people referred to Imam Ali (AS) seeking the hands of Hazrat Zainab (AS) in marriage. While providing guidelines to Hazrat Zainab (AS), the Imam preserved for her the right of making the final choice. Here, from among all the suitors, Hazrat Zainab chose the son of one of the martyrs as her husband.

Indeed, she chose as her husband, Abdullah, the son of Ja'afar (who was martyred in one of the battles carried out during the lifetime of the Holy Prophet and whose hands were both amputated by the enemy).

According to some traditions, when the marriage contract was to be drawn, Hazrat Zainab asked her husband Abdullah ibn Ja'afar to undertake two commitments:

1) To allow her to diurnally visit her brother Hussein (AS).

2) To allow her to company her brother Hussein (AS) wherever he journeyed.

Abdullah accepted both conditions.

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS OF ZAINAB'S LIFE

Even though Hazrat Zainab's life was filled with familiar, political, and social events the most important event in her lifetime was her presence in the Revolution of Karbala in 61 A.H.

In the wake of the bloody uprising of Imam Hussein (AS) for the establishment of Islamic justice and for the negation of all oppressions and suppressions of the Omayyids, Yazid ibn Muawiyyith, by mobilizing all its military forces, martyred Imam Hussein (AS) and 72 of his combatant companions in a completely unequal one-day long battle.

Zainab (AS), who had personally witnessed the martyrdom of her brother Imam Hussein (AS), her other brothers and nephews, her sons Mohammad and Awn, as well as other victims, assumed the task of delivering the message of the martyrs to the people of the time and to the generations to come.



Zainab was duty-bound to prevent the Karbala Revolution from being distorted as a result of the deceitful and poisonous propaganda of the ruling system.

Even though Hazrat Zainab was in captivity along with other family members of the martyrs, spiritual pressures and the heavy duty of taking charge of the mourning children of the martyrs did not preclude her from enlightening the minds of the people and bringing the realities into the open.

Islamic history books have repeatedly referred to 3 ardent and fervent speeches delivered by Zaibab (AS) in three vital areas (Kufah, the Palace of Ibn Ziyad, and the Court of Yazid).

THE REPERCUSSIONS AND INFLUENCE OF THE HEROIC AND TURBULENT SERMONS OF ZAINAB (AS)

Let us evaluate the power and freedom Islam vests in women by paying due regard to one of Zainab's praiseworthy speeches.

Heading caravan of captives, Zainab (AS) entered Kufah which was for a peiod of five years the center of her father's reign. The situation of the city had completely changed as it was filled with military and disciplinary forces, as the people were appalled and horrified, and as Zainab too was tired and in mourning!

A group of people who bore enmity with the Members of the Household of the Prophet (S) became jubilant upon seeing the captives and started dancing and capering around. Another group who bore no spite but who were unaware of the relationship these captives had with the Prophet (S) because of the deviating propaganda of the ruling system showed their happiness in another form.

In the meantime, a group of people who advocated the Members of the Household of the Holy Prophet (S) and who knew who the captives were started crying and wailing as a result of extreme grief.

In such a situation, Hazrat Zainab (AS) felt she must control her nerves and stir and enlighten this stagnant and unaware society.

PREREQUISITES FOR A SUCCESSFUL SPEECH

Generally speaking, an orator can deliver a good and successful speech when processing the following prerequisites:

1)The speaker must not be under physical or mental pressure (such as hunger, thirst, and fear). This is while Zainab (AS) was under the weight of all these pressures.

2) The milieu in which the speech is delivered should be calm. In Kufah, and among those who had come to see the captives, however, no such calm could be traced.



3) The listeners and viewers should respect the speaker. This is while those lending their ears to Hazrat Zainab (AS) looked at her as a rebellious woman who had risen against the rightful government and so regarded her pessimistically.

4) Scenes anguishing and influencing the speaker must not be placed before her. Yet before Zainab's camel litter were the amputated heads of the martyrs of Karbala as well as hungry and thirsty children.

With all the foregoing difficulties, the statements of Zainab (AS) permeated through the entire city just as a celestial cry and stirred public anger against the tyrant Omayyid sovereignty.

Hazrat Zainab (AS) stated the following to the people of Kufah (these were the very people who had invited Hussein ibn Ali (AS) as their religious leader but who had broken their covenant and had fought against him due to intense fear from the ruling system):

"O people of Kufah! You are deceitful, void of character, and obsequious! You are a people infirm in determination and guilty of breaking your promise. You deserve Allah's wrath and the fire of hell. Woe betide you! You killed the offspring of the Prophet and now are crying! Cry profusely and smile nevermore, for you have killed the best man on earth. Henceforth, await abjectness and disdain."

Zainab's statements were so forceful that Ubaidullah ibn Ziyad (governor-general of Yazid) ordered 12 thousand disciplinary forces to pacify Zainab and to lead her to the palace of the governor-general.

Zainab's continued revelations even in the presence of the caliph of the time (Yazid ibn Muawiyyih) mounted the freedom-seeking struggles of the world of Islam and ultimately led to the downfall of the Omayyid Dynasty.

This clarifies why on her wedding day, Zainab asked her husband to allow her to accompany her brother wherever he went.

British Actress Jane Baxter Dies of Cancer at 87

LONDON - British stage, screen and television actress Jane Baxter, leading lady to John Gielgud, Charles Laughton, Fredric March and Donald Sinden, has died of cancer at the age of 87, her family said Tuesday.

Baxter, who began her stage career in london at the age of 15, was the original star of the classic, Dial M for Murder, and played the role of Viola in Alec Guinness' first assignment as director in the old Vic production of Twelfth Night, in 1948.

Her West End hits included George and Margaret in 1937, Terence Rattigan's While the Sun Shines in 1943, The Holly and the Ivy in 1950, Dial M for Murder in 1952, and a Voyage Round My Father in 1972.

On British television, Baxter appeared in Upstairs, Downstairs in the 1970s. Her last TV appearance was in 1992, with John Mills in the BBC documentary, Missing Believed Lost.

Baxter was a favorite of the late Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, who, after seeing her in the wartime film, Ships With Wings, in 1941, described her as "that charming lady whose grace personifies all that is best in British womanhood."

Survivor, the Story of Palestinian

FILM REVIEW:

Bazmandch (Survivor)

The Crew:

Director: Seifullah Dad

Cameraman: Ali Reza Zarrin Dast

Actors & Actress: Jamal Soleiman, Salmi Mesri and Jiana Eid

The Palestinian city of Haifa was occupied by the Zionist regime in 1948. Dr. Saeed, one of the city's residents, his wife Latifah and his little son Farhan were forced to leave the city. But Saeed and his wife were killed during the artillery shelling and their son Farhan survives the attack.

Dr. Saeed's house was occupied by Zionists and was handed over to a Jewish family who took the child (Farhan) by force.

From this time onward, Dr. Saeed's mother (Farhan's grand mother) spared no effort to rescue the child from the hand of the Zionists family.

"The Survivor" is adopted from the Palestinian story of "Return to Haifa" by Asnan Kanfani.

The rhyme of the film which begins appropriately gradually converts boring rhyme due to the the audience, but the characters are not easily believable.

The Survivor tries to impose some positive characteristics on the actors. Logic and humanity are the two characteristics which the director apparently tries to impose on some characters.

As a Palestinian Muslim, Dr. Saeed's character differs from his mother who is a Muslim and revolutionary woman.

There is hidden tension in the film which is formed on the basis of a little child's (Farhan) loneliness and innocence. This is an issue which requires more attention to be paid to the film. In other words the director should have attached more importance to Farhan as a key character in this movie.

Finally, the Survivor as a film produced in Syria, tries to portray geographical location and the similarities which exist between the houses, streets and other places.

The classical structure of the film, has been vigilantly reflected to the sacred struggle of the Palestinian people against the oppressors. Survivor tries to introduce the innocence of Palestinians to the audience.

Campaign Against the Oppressor



Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

By Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir

What Is Kung Fu?

(Part 7)



When a secluded person named Tamu entered southern China (probably about 520 A.D.), kung fu turned into an attractive and disputable form in its history. Tamu who's been known as a 'Badhidharama' or 'Darumataeeshi' was an occult individual, but he was also a key figure in Asian fighting skills. In addition, the Chinese people knew him as a forerunner (Chouwan) and proponent of Buddha who was engaged in numerous riddles and legends. Tamu claimed that he was the son of the Indian King, Soganeha, and was trained by a master of fighting trainings known as 'Braj Narata' who has been at Soganeha's service. According to some 28 great men lived in ancient times, Tamu went on foot from India to China to teach pure Buddhism to the Liyangs.



Although, Buddhism has probably existed in China since the first or second century, but it had been seemingly devalued and introduced as a sole destructive struggle so that its main principles — austerity and mortification — have been paid no attention. Entering the land of Emperor Liyang Veoti, one of the five southern dynasty's ruler, the secluded person was taken to the emperor and questioned regarding the basic beliefs ranked from foe to man. Although Liyang Veoti was a great supporter of Buddhism, but his beliefs regarding salvation were completely different from Tamu. Therefore, Tamu along with some southern rebels were forced to leave there. They set off for the north, 'Vee Ai' kingdom where they were accidentally residing in Shaolin Temple located at Hoonan Province.

Although it is accepted that the first Shaolin Temple has been built by Hee Siaoon Emperor of northern Vee Ai dynasty (386-534 A.D.) in northern side of 'Shao-Shiyeh' mountains near Luyan. It should be noted that Tamu had his first 3-year stay at the western terrace facing a wall to remedy himself. During his stay, he had been listening to the 'Call of Ants'.

During his classes held in Shaolin, Tamu founded out that his disciples due to their physical weaknesses could not keep late hours on pondering deeply and worshiping hard in which he was very interested. According to a legend, once he fell asleep during meditation, he became so nervous because of his weakness that he cut his eyelids to prevent its repetition. At that place, a tree sprouted, of which leaves kept the eyes of Shaolin secluded persons open. He taught his weak trainees a series of 18-step exercises through which many methods of Shaolin boxing have been developed.

Nigerian Escape Artist in Trouble Again

JOHANNESBURG — Escape artist Katsina United must dig another tunnel this weekend to remain in contention for the African Cup Winners' Cup.

The Nigerian second division club trailed Sodigraf 2-0 from the first leg of a quarterfinal tie in Zaire, where Mbayo Kibemba and Kisombe Mundaba struck early second-half goals.

Katsina, seeking to emulate compatriots shooting stars, Enugu Rangers and BCC Lions by lifting the Nelson Mandela Cup, wiped out a three-goal deficit in the previous round.

It was a close call as Mbilinga from Gabon conceded an own goal and the shot from Nasiru Djibril which leveled the aggregate score struck the net in the dying seconds.

Ynited outscored its more experienced rival in the penalty shootout to add another chapter to a fairy-tale rise from the obscurity of lower-league football.

In the opening round, Katsina also had an abundance of luck as a power failure forced the abandonment of its match against Congolese visitor Etoile.

This should have led to the disqualification of Katsina, but after a lengthy delay the organizers ordered a replay, which the Nigerians lost only to scrape through on away goals.

Another second division contender, Fath Union Sportive of Morocco, faces an even tougher task after being held at home by double winner Arab Contractors from Egypt.

Surprise package Costa do Sol of Mozambique has scored six goals in two previous home matches and must be favored to eliminate 1979 winner Canon Yaounde following a scoreless draw in Cameroon.

CR Belouizdad is through to the semifinal as South African opponent Supersport United refused to play in Algeria, where civil war has claimed more than 50,000 lives. (AFP)

Zeman Talks of Quitting Lazio

ROME — Lazio coach Zdenek Zeman believes he could soon be looking for another job if his team's results do not start improving.

Lazio has failed to score a goal, let alone a point, in its first two Serie A matches this season despite a much-vaunted strike trio of Pierluigi Casiraghi, Giuseppe Signori and Igor Protti.

Worse still, archrival as Roma is top of the table.

"I'm more unhappy than worried," Zeman said. "Losing two matches on the trot isn't nice for anyone. Clearly, the team is not able to put into practice all the work we do during the week.

"I've told the squad this and I hope they've understood."

As for himself, Zeman said: "I'm fully aware that every coach risks his job when things don't go well. Should I quit? Well, it depends. If I realize that I'm not able to do the work, I could leave."

But he added: "For the moment, the conditions are not there to warrant it, and I can't see the point of taking the squad away for a few days."

He also sought to defend club president Sergio Cragnotti, unpopular with many fans after Roberto di Matteo went to Chelsea, Aaron Winter to Inter Milan and rejuvenated Croatian forward Alen Boksic to Juventus.

"We've brought in good players, and the responsibility is shared by me," he said.

Zeman also stuck by his men up front.

"The lack of goals is no reason to go changing all the strikers," he said. "Signori, Casiraghi and Protti scored 62 goals between them last season. With the ones we had before, we didn't win anything." (AFP)

Berlusconi Rallies the Troops

MILAN — AC Milan President Silvio Berlusconi believes his team's dismal start to the season is coming to an end after two consecutive defeats.

Berlusconi spoke to his men at their Milanello Training Base on Tuesday, determined to stop a rot which started against Porto on Wednesday in the Champions League and continued on Sunday away to Sampdoria.

The former prime minister blamed the results on a combination of bad luck and overconfidence by a squad which has won the league title four times in the last five years.

"In the last few games, luck has not been wearing a red and black shirt," he declared. "But we've always overcome moments like this in the past." (AFP)



SANTA MONICA, CA, United States (September 17): A woman who identified herself only as Elf from Brentwood holds a picture of O.J. Simpson as she stands in front of the Santa Monica Courthouse in California where evidence proceedings in the O.J. Simpson civil lawsuit are taking place. The trial will get underway with jury selection.

(AFP PHOTO)

Sports Summary

Tehran Times Service

SOCCER

LONDON: Managerless Manchester City was punished by a battling Lincoln here on Tuesday night when they fell to a shock 4-1 defeat in the League Cup. Luton beat Derby 1-0 in its second round, first leg clash at Kenilworth Road while another premiership outfit, Tottenham, was held 1-1 at Preston.

COPENHAGEN: German national coach Berti Vogts told European national coaches assembled here at the UEFA summit on Tuesday that "Italy was one of the best if not the best team at Euro 96, and the unluckiest." He also called for UEFA to protect the interests of international football, which he said was increasingly under threat from club schedules overburdened by the European cups.

LONDON: National coach Glenn Hoddle will hold a nine-day training camp prior to England's Wembley World Cup qualifier with Poland on October 9 to allow them to work on his new wing-back system. Hoddle, who will name his squad a week on Friday, hopes to bring the players together on Tuesday, October 1, and keep them together for a full week of preparations. Premiership fixtures for the weekend in between will be rescheduled.

GLASGOW: Glasgow Rangers unveiled record trading profits of more than seven million pounds as turnover soared 55 percent over the 12 months to May 31, which saw a four-fold increase in trading profits.

LONDON: Arsenal's relief at being able to announce French coach Arsene Wenger as its new manager after a week of turmoil did not last long as scandal erupted in the wake of full back Nigel Winterburn shouting abuse at wheelchair fans at Monday night's match. Ian Wright's milestone hat trick against Sheffield Wednesday was clouded by a referee's report alleging Winterburn incited rival fans with rude words and gestures.

ALICANTE, Spain: Former Argentine star Diego Maradona is receiving treatment from Argentine psychiatrist Jacobo Zubcoff, who is based in the southeastern Spanish city, Zubcoff told as magazine. Zubcoff, who does not know the player, warned if Maradona did continue to take stimulants he "could die on the football field."

LONDON: Steve Coppell is poised for a second spell as manager of Crystal Palace, three years after quitting the club, with current boss Dave Bassett set to move on to Manchester City. Coppell, who returned to the Palace as director of football last summer, is believed to be ready to return to the Selhurst Park hot seat with bassett refusing to talk about his future.

CYCLING

AVILA, Spain: Alex Zulle of Spain took the leader's yellow jersey in the Tour of Spain on Tuesday after Switzerland's Tony Rominger grabbed the 10th stage honors by winning a 46.5km time trial between El Tiemblo and Avila. Spanish veteran Miguel Indurain moved into second place in the overall standings after a battling performance on a day when the riders were constantly buffeted by icy winds, a far cry from the balmy conditions of previous stages in Andalusia.

CRICKET

TORONTO: India set Pakistan a difficult target of 264 for 6 wickets in the limited over fixture being played here on Tuesday. On Monday night Sachin Tendulkar smashed 89 off as many balls to steer India to an eight-wicket victory over Pakistan in the first of five limited-overs matches for the Sahara Cup.

TENNIS

RABAT: Morocco's top three professional players opted to boycott this weekend's semifinal against Switzerland because the Moroccan Royal Tennis Federation is refusing to pay for them to appear. Karim Alami, Younes el-Aynaoui and Hicham Arazi, who are all ranked in the ATP top 100, demanded 25,000, 20,000 and 15,000 dollars to wear the national colors — whatever the result against Switzerland.

SOEDERTALJE, Sweden: Swedish tennis great Bjorn Borg will be honored in his hometown of Soedertaelje on October 5 when the city celebrates Bjorn Borg day. The Svenska Dagbladet said on Tuesday the five-time Wimbledon champion and six-time French Open winner wants to pay back Soedertaelje by playing tennis and hockey with Swedish table tennis stars Jan-Ove Waldner and Mikael Appelgren, hockey greats Kenta Nilsson and Rolf Ridderwall and football star Tomas Brolin.

AUTO

LONDON: Jackie Stewart threw Damon Hill a Formula One lifeline on Tuesday by saying he would love to take the world championship leader on board to spearhead his new team. The triple former champion revealed that Hill — without a team for next year after being dropped by Williams — was the man he wanted ready for when Stewart Grand Prix make its debut next march. Earlier Tuesday, Stewart's Formula One newcomers signed a 25-million-pound sponsorship deal with a major international banking group.

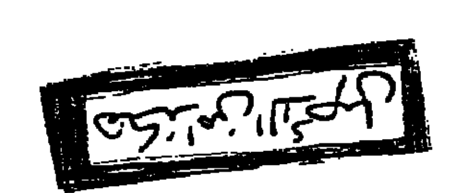
RUGBY UNION

CARDIFF: Llanelli Lock Mike Voyle has won a place in the Welsh side to face France at the national ground, Cardiff Arms Park, on September 25. It will be his first full start for Wales having won his first cap when coming on as a replacement against Australia in the summer. The 26-year-old Voyle takes over from Derwyn Jones and is one of two changes from the side that beat the Barbarians 31-10 last month. The other change sees Cardiff flanker Hemi Taylor, who was forced to pull out of that match because of a shoulder injury, return at the expense of his replacement, Ebbw Vale skipper Kingsley Jones.

FIELD HOCKEY

SYDNEY: Ric Charlesworth, who steered the Australian women's hockey team to the gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics, has applied to coach the men's and women's national teams. Charlesworth, who played a record 227 internationals over 16 years for Australia, reshaped the women's team to win the Olympic, World Cup and two champions trophy titles in the past four years. Men's coach Frank Murray stepped down after his team won bronze in Atlanta leaving Charlesworth the possibility to switch.

(AFP)





Ross Meets Mubarak, Arafat on Peace Process

CAIRO — U.S. Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross held talks Wednesday with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak on the regional economic conference in Cairo next month, the official news agency MENA reported.

Ross was in Egypt on the first leg of a tour to discuss preparations for the conference which Mubarak had threatened to scrap as well as ways of reviving the stalled Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

"Ross said he had fruitful discussions with President Mubarak during which they exchanged views on the peace process in general and the holding of the economic conference," MENA said.

"Ross expressed hope that the United States and Egypt will continue to exchange views and cooperate."

MENA said the talks in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria were also attended by Mubarak's top political advisor Ossama al-Baz and the U.S. ambassador to Egypt, Edward Walker.

Emerging from talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mussa on Tuesday, Ross said: "We had a very good discussion and we are going to continue to work very closely together."

Mubarak had threatened to scrap the economic conference unless Israel respected its peace commitments. But he later said it will go ahead on November 12-14, and urged Israel and the United States to help ensure its success.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat met U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross on Wednesday to discuss the peace process and a plan to drum up foreign aid for the Palestinians, officials said.

(AFP)

Israel Authorizes More Homes for Settlers

TEL AVIV — Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has authorized construction of 1,800 new homes for Jewish settlers in the West Bank in the biggest boost to settlement expansion yet by Israel's right-wing government, officials said Wednesday.

The new apartments are slated for construction in the ultra-Orthodox settlement of Matityahu, about 25 kilometers (15 miles) north of Bait-ul-Moqaddas just inside the line separating the West Bank from Israel, a ministry spokeswoman said.

Approval for the new neighborhood at Matityahu, which will house an estimated 10,000 people, came a month after Mordechai authorized the immediate construction of 900 apartments in a neighboring settlement for ultra-Orthodox families, Kiryat Sefer.

The anti-settler movement peace now angrily protested the latest decision by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to expand settlements in territories where Palestinians hope to create an independent state.

(AFP)

Afghan Uzbek Party Rules Out Alliance With Kabul

ISLAMABAD — Afghan Uzbek leader Abdul Rashid Dostam's faction Wednesday ruled out any alliance with the Kabul government against the Taleban militia, saying it rejects the continuation of war in Afghanistan.

"The National Islamic Movement (NIM) believes in an intra-Afghan dialogue to resolve the Afghan crisis," said Painda Mohammad, a close aide to Dostam.

A general in Dostam's militia, Painda denied Dostam would meet emissaries from Kabul in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, for talks on joining the Afghan coalition government.

"No such meeting is planned in Tashkent," the Pakistan-based NIM spokesman told AFP.

An Afghan government spokesman announced in Kabul Sunday two special envoys — Interior Minister Yunus Qanuni and Hyumayun Jarir, a son-in-law of Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar — had left for Tashkent.

"Dostam has shown willingness to join the government but he has placed certain conditions which will be discussed in Tashkent," the government spokesman had said.

But the NIM was ready to discuss its views with all parties including the Afghan government and the Taleban movement, Painda said.

"We will negotiate with all sides," he said, adding that the Afghan government planned to send a delegation to Dostam's stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan.

(AFP)



BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS (September 17): Israeli police clash with a group of Palestinians protesting the partial demolition of a Palestinian home in Bait-ul-Moqaddas. Israeli police sources said the demolition had been ordered by Bait-ul-Moqaddas city authorities because the second floor of the building was built without a permit.

(AFP PHOTO)



(Contd from Pg. 1)

EGYPT...

an exclusive interview with the *Tehran Times*, a senior official of the Foreign Ministry added that Mubarak's statement recently published in the London-based *Al-Hayat* daily is are a childish reaction to the President Hashemi Rafsanjani's significant Africa tour. He said that Egypt, wrongly imagining itself the leader of Arab and African world, has been irritated by the achievements of President Rafsanjani's visit to Africa.

In his remarks printed in *Al-Hayat* daily on September 18, Mubarak again accused Iran of involvement in the attempt on his life. The Egyptian president said that those arrested had acknowledged that Tehran was involved in the abortive attempt.

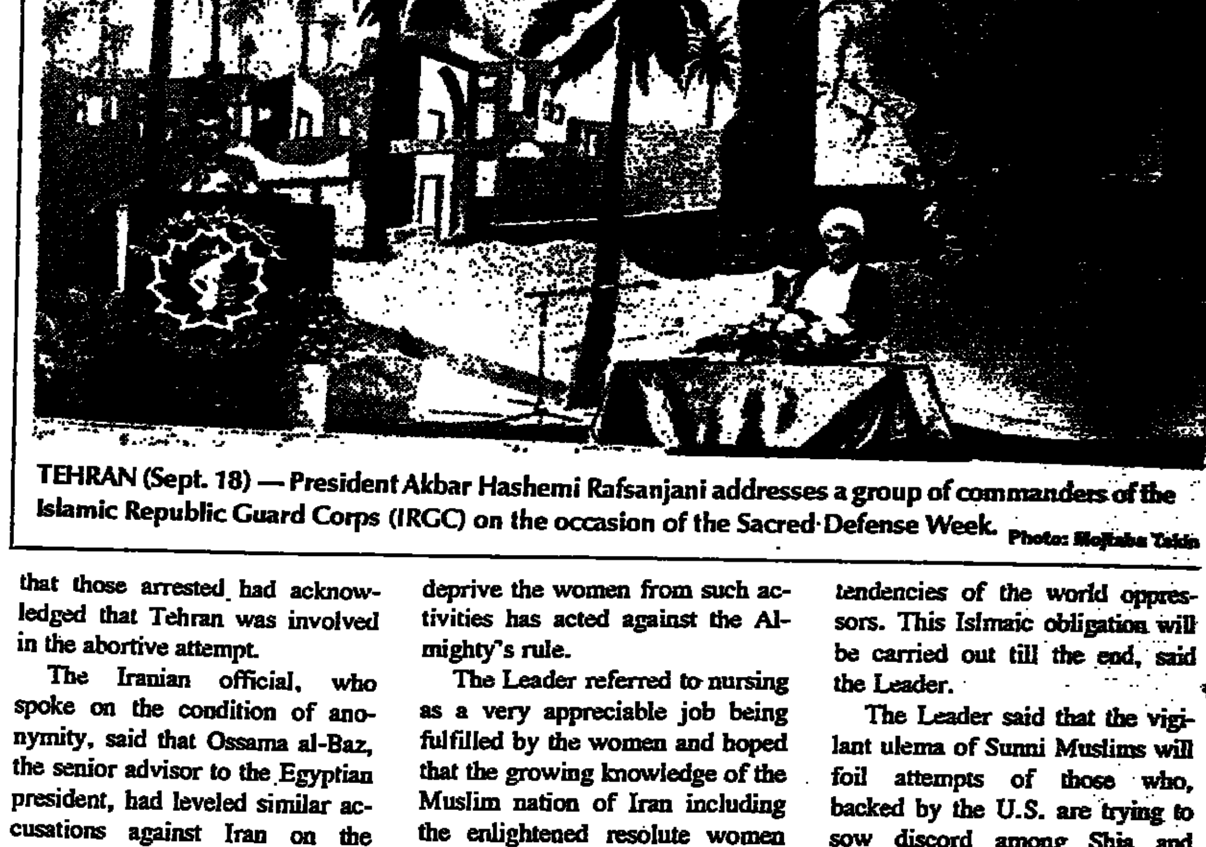
The Iranian official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that Ossama al-Baz, the senior advisor to the Egyptian president, had leveled similar accusations against Iran on the verge of President Rafsanjani's Africa tour and that Mubarak is now repeating the same baseless charges, despite the fact that the Egyptian officials, a few days after the incident, ruled out any Iran's involvement in the attempt.

"Iran's humanitarian mediation aimed at ending the fratricide at the Sudan-Uganda borders should not give the impression that the Islamic Republic of Iran is competing against some other countries in the region," the official stressed.

"Immediately after the attempt on Mubarak's life, the Zionist regime accused Iran of involvement in the terrorist act. The Egyptian president, by making the recent statements in the interview with the *Al-Hayat*, has in fact followed the line set by the U.S. and Zionist regime," he said.

President Hashemi Rafsanjani, heading a high-level political, economic and cultural delegation, paid a two-week visit to six African countries. During his significant visit, Iran took the initiative in mediating between Sudan and Uganda. In light of Iran's mediation efforts, a peace accord was signed by the two countries' foreign ministers in the presence of the Iranian president.

It is worth noting that Iran, on various occasions, has strongly condemned the attempt on the life of the Egyptian president and has firmly denied any involvement in the incident.



TEHRAN (Sept. 18) — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani addresses a group of commanders of the Islamic Republic Guard Corps (IRGC) on the occasion of the Sacred Defense Week. Photo: Mojtaba Takin

(Contd from Pg. 1)

WOMEN...

Revolution and during the eight-year Iraqi imposed war (1980-1988).

The Leader added that presence of the Muslim women in the core of the popular struggle against the former regime and their steadfastness during the sacred defense has helped promote the political awareness of Iranian women.

On the Islam's views toward the Muslim women, the Leader said Islam respects the women as of equal ability with the men in spiritual and human promotion, adding that the work opportunities in social, political, scientific and economic fields are fully open to women and anyone who wants to deprive the women from such activities has acted against the Almighty's rule.

The Leader referred to nursing as a very appreciable job being fulfilled by the women and hoped that the growing knowledge of the Muslim nation of Iran including the enlightened resolute women would prepare grounds for defeat of the world arrogance in its attempts against the Islamic system.

Also, hundreds of female students in Orumieh who have recently attained the age when they should perform their religious duties took part in a congregational prayer led by Ayatollah Khamenei yesterday.

Prior to the prayer, addressing the students the Leader considered the occasion a feast and stated that performing religious duties reflects honor on man since the religious duties act as a link between man and the Almighty God.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, during his second day of visit to Orumieh, inspected the third exhibit displaying capabilities of West Azarbaijan Province. At the exhibit, the achievements resulting from incessant efforts made by the organizations and over 120 manufacturing and industrial units in the province active in different fields of industry, economy, agriculture, animal husbandry, and handicrafts were put on display.

Ayatollah Khamenei also paid a visit to an exhibition hall displaying the achievements of the provincial information office and the Islamic Revolution Guards orps (IRGC).

The Leader of the Islamic Revoluton also said that unity among the Shia and Sunni Muslims in this western region of Iran, Orumiyeh, angers the enemy.

Addressing a group of local Shia and Sunni ulema, the Leader added that this unity is the outcome of relentless and sincere efforts of the ulema from both sects.

The Leader, who arrived in Orumiyeh Tuesday morning, added that the main mission of the ulema will be materialized only when they fulfill their role in scientific, spiritual and emotional aspects of life. The clergy should by increasing public knowledge about Islam create mental and psychological stability and social justice.

Elsewhere in his remarks the Leader said that the Islamic republic of Iran is the sole country in the world which has acted against the predominant norms and stood against expansionist tendencies of the world oppressors. This Islmaic obligation will be carried out till the end, said the Leader.

The Leader said that the vigilant ulema of Sunni Muslims will foil attempts of those who, backed by the U.S. are trying to sow discord among Shia and Sunni Muslims.

Ayatollah Khamenei also stressed that the honor of Iranian nation, prosperity of the country and victory over the U.S. and its allies both at present and future is due to the people's devotion.

The Leader said that Iran is a powerful country that put the U.S. administation into a terrible panic when all its propaganda failed to mar the visit to the African states of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Referring to the enemy's attempts to regain its illegitimate interests in Iran, the Leader termed cultural assault as a phenomenon more dangerous than military attack. The enemy is trying to mislead the Iranian youths and destroy divine and moral boundaries in people's life, he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei warned all the youth in particular, against such dangerous plots and urged them to counter the enemy's conspiracy.

Although provinces such as West Azarbaijan and Kurdestan were engaged in war with enemies and plotters since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the hard work of the people of these regions has led to full security and tranquility.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

KUWAIT...

were no differences. But it is difficult for the government to say 'yes, please come in' without carrying out consultations," he said.

He stressed, however, that Kuwait, "will not bear alone the burden of the expense of the new security arrangements. There will be a Kuwaiti and an American participation."

Asked if other Persian Gulf Arab states would help foot the bill of the U.S. deployments, he said: "That question will be discussed at a later date."

Some U.S. 3,000 troops will start arriving on Thursday for military exercises in Kuwait, a U..S military spokesman said on Wednesday.

"Approximately 3,000 U.S. Army soldiers have deployed from the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas," said Captain Timothy Raymond of the 1st Cavalry Division in Kuwait.

(AFP)

WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. -34°C Min. temp. 21°C

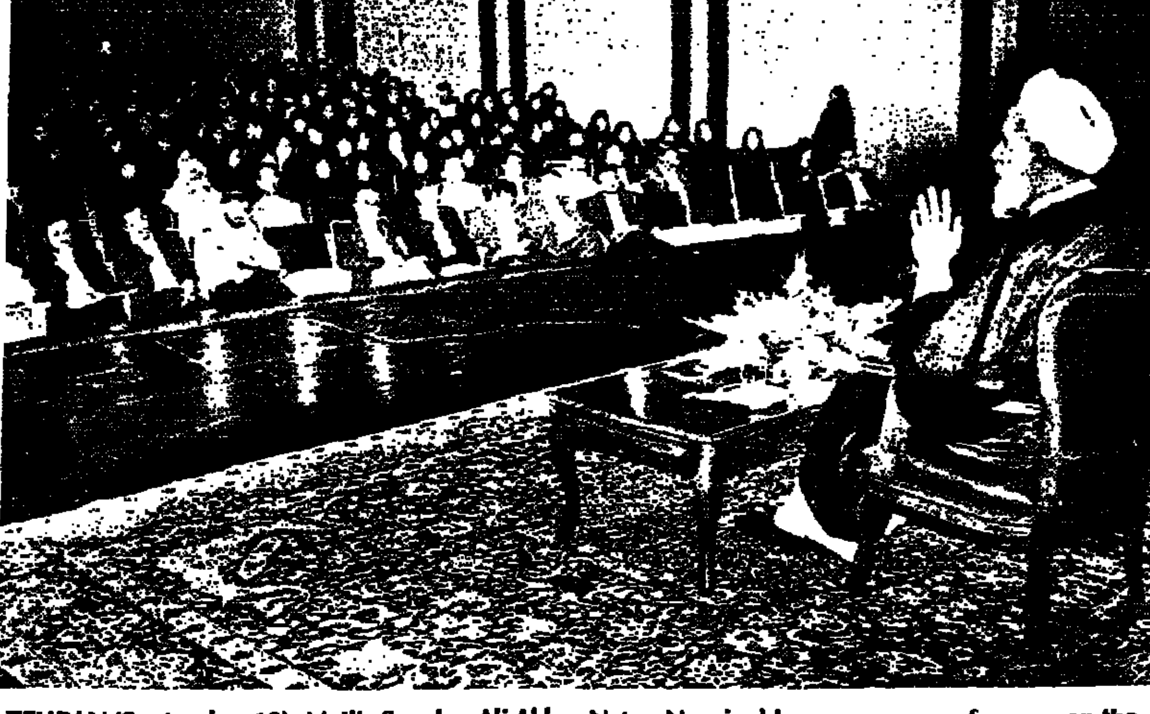
Clear to half cloudy

Warmest Points:
Abadan 25°C

Coldest Point:
Sarab 5oC

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max °C	Cities	Max °C
Riyadh	–	Vienna	10
Istanbul	22	Moscow	11
Rome	17	Madrid	–
Athens	–	Abu Dhabi	37
London	14	Karachi	30
Paris	16	New Delhi	31
Frankfurt	13	Kuwait	44



TEHRAN (September 18): Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri addresses a group of nurses on the occasion of "Nurse Day" named after the birthday anniversary of Hazrat Zeinab (SA) granddaughter of the Holy Prophet of Islam Hazrat Mohammad (S). Photo: Kaveh Ahmadi

11 North Koreans Commit Suicide to Avoid Capture

KANGNUNG, South Korea — Eleven North Koreans committed suicide Wednesday to evade capture in a thousands-strong military manhunt after their submarine ran aground off a beach in South Korea, officials said.

But one of their colleagues was captured alive and the South Korean army was searching for eight or nine other North Korean agents thought to have been on the 325-ton "Sango-O (Shark)" class sub.

The crippled sub was the first full-scale attack submarine ever caught in South Korean waters.

At nightfall South Korean troops were digging into ambush positions here, hoping to trap the remaining men in a massive drag-net backed by patrol boats, helicopters, surveillance planes and sniffer dogs, an AFP photographer said.

Military officials in Seoul said the 11 killed themselves in a mass suicide not far from where the crippled sub beached some 100 kilometers (60) miles) south of the Demilitarized Zone and 145 kilometers (90 miles) east of Seoul.

The bodies of the men in their mid-20s, wearing jeans and t-shirts, were found lying side-by-side under a hillside hedgerow, each with a single bullet hole in the temple, the photographer said.

The bodies were found five kilometers (three miles) south of the beached submarine.

Defense Ministry officials identified the sole captured North Korean as a crewman, Ri Kwang-Su, 31. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 2)

KENYAN....

The author of the essay wrote that a sudden shift in the policy of the Western powers on the world progress and development after the collapse of the former Soviet revealed the deceptive nature of the diplomacy the West has been pursuing.

Elsewhere, the essay, referring to the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979 under the leadership of the founder of Islamic Republic the late Imam Khomeini, it wrote that the execution of Islamic laws in Iran, the United States being introduced as the Great Satan were but some of the successful aspects of the policies of the Islamic Revolution.

The article went on to say that the United States open enmity with Iran and its efforts in trying to prevent the enhancement of Islamic principles around the globe, were eminating from the U.S. humiliation after the collapse of the Shah's regime.

According to the author, the U.S. was trying to introduce Iran as the factor of instability in the neighboring and regional countries and as a danger threatening Israel. Due to the same reasons, he added, it considered the Islamic Republic of Iran as supporter of terrorism.

The daily wrote that Iran was for establishment of a new world based on justice, where people of the Third World could attain progress and get rid of political dependence, a notion not in accordance with the wishes of the Western block.

It finally underlined that Western culture did not serve as a prelude to economic growth and flourishment and that Japan including many far east nations being highly developed, did not follow the standards and patterns of the Western culture. (IRNA)

PRESIDENT RABBANI:

Kabul Ready to Reach Understanding With Opposition

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, in a meeting on Wednesday with visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs Alaeddin Borujerdi, voiced his government's readiness to negotiate with Afghan opposition groups in order to come to an understanding.

Rabbani underlined that the Taleban militia should realize that they are culpable for the bloodshed and carnage of innocent people in Afghanistan, adding that the Taleban group will get nowhere by following a belligerent policy.

Appreciating relentless efforts made by the Islamic Republic of Iran at restoring peace and stability in Afghanistan, Rabbani averred that his government's permanent policy is to end war and bloodshed in that country.

Borujerdi arrived in Kabul yesterday on a mission to help settle the current crisis in Afghanistan. Conveying warm greetings of President Hashemi Rafsanjani to his Afghan counterpart, Borujerdi said that the Islamic Republic of Iran firmly opposes war and fratricide in Afghanistan.

The Iranian official also reiterated that Iran will make every effort to restore peace and stability in that country, adding that the normalization of ties between Kabul and Mazar-sharif is a key step towards this end.

"Those who believe the problem facing Afghanistan could be solved through war are wrong, for bloodshed only aggravates the Afghan people's problems," Borujerdi noted.

The deputy foreign minister emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran will offer any possible aid to Afghanistan to settle the crisis and resolve the existing issues in that country.

Kurdish Leader Prefers Western Support to Saddam's

SALAHEDIN, Iraq — The leader of the Iraq-backed Kurdish faction which took control of northern Iraq is ready to renounce Baghdad in return for Western support when he meets a U.S. envoy in Turkey, an aide said Wednesday.

Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) leader Massud Barzani, who arrived in the Turkish capital, Ankara, Wednesday, will ask U.S. envoy Robert Pelletreau "for American support and assistance for the Kurdish people," Barzani political advisor Falakaddin Kakai told AFP at KDP headquarters in Salahedin.

"If we get Western and U.S. support, we won't need anyone else's support," he added.

Barzani "will explain to the Americans the new reality (in Iraqi Kurdistan) so that they will understand it," Kakai added.

The KDP, allied with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's forces, earlier this month captured control of the Kurdish areas of northern Iraq, ousting its rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

"We hope allied (Western) forces will continue to protect us," he said, acknowledging that "Iraq doesn't like" Barzani meeting with Pelletreau.

The KPD does "not have any political agreement with Baghdad," he said.

Barzani is in Ankara to "reorganize relations with the U.S. and the West," he said, adding that he hopes that Western support will guarantee the existence of a Kurdish Parliament and government in Iraq. (AFP)

Police Assassin Accuses De Klerk of Apartheid "Dirty Tricks"

PRETORIA — Former South African President Frederik de Klerk had full knowledge of covert apartheid police and military units, convicted police assassin Colonel Eugene de Kock said Wednesday.

In a bitter attack against De Klerk, who is now opposition leader, De Kock described the former president as the "biggest coward this country has ever seen."

"He certainly knew there were covert units," De Kock said, citing an incident in which De Klerk ordered a military raid against a house in the former black homeland of Transkei on October 8, 1994.

"De Klerk ordered the raid in the Transkei," De Kock said. "Who does he think carried it out?"

De Kock has already named De Klerk's predecessor, Pieter Botha, as having ordered a 1988 bombing of a trade union headquarters in Johannesburg, in which two people were injured.

De Klerk, who ruled the country from 1989 until Nelson Mandela and his African National Congress (ANC) took power in April, 1994, has constantly denied he was aware of covert police and military units.

Since Monday, De Kock has been giving evidence in Pretoria Supreme Court in mitigation of sentence after being convicted last month on six counts of murder and 83 other counts, including gun-running and fraud.

The crimes relate to actions carried by De Kock and his colleagues between 1985 and 1993, when the colonel headed the covert security police Vlakplaas Unit, established to counter ANC guerrilla attacks. (AFP)

1,350 New Students Admitted at Imam Khomeini Int'l University

GHAZVIN, Tehran Province — 1,350 new students, including 350 foreigners, have registered for the upcoming academic year, beginning September 22, at Imam Khomeini International University in Ghazvin.

The university grants bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees in 25 different courses.

A total of 3,500 Iranian students as well as 500 students from African, Europian, Asian countries as well as the newly formed Central Asian republics have already been studying at the university. (IRNA)

At Least 11 Die in Brazil Rail Crash

RIO DE JANEIRO — At least 11 people were killed and several injured when two trains collided in Brazil on Wednesday, CBN national radio said.

The crash appeared to have been caused by faulty brakes on a train carrying copper which slammed into a packed commuter train near Japeri, Rio de Janeiro state, the radio said.

Ten of the victims, including a woman in her eighth month of pregnancy, were killed instantly and injured passengers were being taken to local hospitals, the report said.

No more information was immediately available. (Reuter)

Sudanese Vice-Speaker Hails Iran

TEHRAN — Visiting vice-speaker of Sudanese Parliament Abdulaziz Shaddou hailed Iran as a staunch supporter of his country.

Shaddou told IRNA here Tuesday that Iran's special significance to the issues relevant to Sudan revealed the depth of relations between the two countries.

He said the last week visit of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to Sudan would consolidate Tehran-Khartoum ties in all areas.

He added that Iran's success in mediating between Sudan and Uganda was an outstanding move within Iran's diplomacy regarding the African Continent and in line with implementation of the UN Resolution 1,044.

The Sudanese official noted that the fact that Sudan and Uganda have accepted Iran's mediation indicated that the two countries have great respect for Iran. He expressed hope that Iran would continue adopting mediation initiatives between Sudan and the neighboring states, especially Ethiopia and Eritrea. (IRNA)

(Contd from Pg.2)

PAKISTAN....

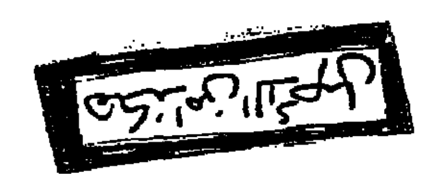
into Pakistan if their chassis numbers were provided.

He also called for collaboration to hunt down car stealing gangs operating along border between Iran and Pakistan.

Fallah, chief of the Iranian delegation appreciated Pakistan's efforts in controlling narcotics trafficking and elimination of poppy cultivation.

He said elimination of poppy in Afghanistan is vital for making these efforts fruitful.

Babar suggested that United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP), Iran and Pakistan jointly help Afghanistan substitute poppy with other cash crops. (IRNA)



Indian Dropout Claims He Can Make Fuel From Herb

MADRAS, India — A south Indian state offered financial backing to a high school dropout who claims he can make fuel from a green herb and a secret chemical.

Ramar Pillai, 36, demonstrated how he makes his purported herbal fuel to M. Karunanidhi, chief minister of Tamil Nadu State, and reporters in the state capital Madras.

"It doesn't seem to me to be a conjurer's trick or plain magic," Karunanidhi said after the demonstration. "Having seen it with my own eyes, it is indeed petrol... if it is proved to be a viable proposition, poverty might vanish from Tamil Nadu." (Reuter)

Gulp Austria Cooks World's Biggest Liver Dumpling

VIENNA — A contender as the world's biggest liver dumpling, the bulwark of Austrian cuisine, has been cooked by a Tyrolean village, confident its 1.8 tonne monster will roll into the Guinness Book of Records.

The newspaper Tiroler Tageszeitung said the dumpling was made over the weekend with 600 kg of bread, 180 kg fat, 490 kg beef liver, 200 kg flour, 20 kg onions and a smattering of garlic and herbs.

The dumpling, with a diameter of 1.5 metres, needed two and a half days until it was cooked through and before it could be hoisted out of the boiling water with a crane for the villagers of Zams to consume eventually. (Reuter)

Izetbegovic First President of Post-War Bosnia



SARAJEVO — Top Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic has been elected as Bosnia's first post-war head of state, the OSCE said here Wednesday, after topping the poll in weekend presidential elections.

"It's clear that President Izetbegovic will serve as president of the presidency during the two year term until the 1998 elections," said Robert Frowick, mission head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) which ran the elections.

Frowick gave the vote for the first three candidates to the three-member presidency as 729,034 for Izetbegovic, 690,373 for Momcilo Krajisnik, and 342,007 for Kresimir Zubak.

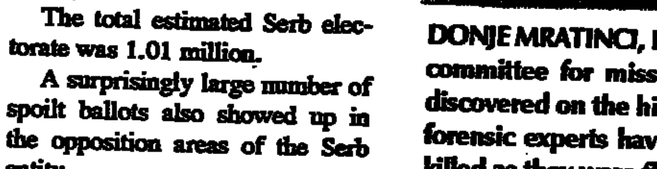
The closeness of the vote showed that Krajisnik could have won if his main rival for the Serb seat on the presidency, the Belgrade-backed candidate Mladen Ivanic had not stood. Ivanic captured around a third of the Serb vote.

Controversy was expected to follow the announcement of the votes, after the total number of votes counted for the Serb entity topped the estimated maximum number of eligible Serb voters.

Frowick gave the number of votes cast in the Serb entity as 1,023,819.

The total estimated Serb electorate was 1.01 million.

A surprisingly large number of spoilt ballots also showed up in the opposition areas of the Serb entity. (AFP)



DONJE MRATINCI, Bosnia-Herzegovina (September 17): Criminologists of the Bosnian government committee for missing persons, carry the mortal remains of four of hundreds of dead bodies discovered on the hillside and in the woods above the village of Donje Mratinci. A team of Bosnian forensic experts have started gathering the remains in the area of people, believed to have been killed as they were fleeing the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica in July 1995.

(AFP PHOTO)

Thai Parliament Hears Opposition Charges Against PM

BANGKOK — Thailand's opposition launched a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-Archa on Wednesday by accusing him of mismanaging the country and blaming him for rampant corruption.

Opposition leader Chuan Leekpai told Parliament Banharn "has no knowledge, no ability, no vision, no morals and has a lack of leadership." The prime minister "has no legitimate right to administer the country," he said.

The motion accused the prime minister and his administration of using their influence and position to profit from shady business deals.

Banharn has denied all charges, and on paper has the necessary votes to survive the motion. But analysts said he could emerge fatally weakened from the grilling he was expected to face over the next two to three days.

The Bangkok media were virtually unanimous in calling on Banharn to step down, and his six-party coalition was under threat as member parties jockeyed for position ahead of either a major reshuffle or snap elections. (AFP)

EU on "Shaky Ground" in Refusing Timetable for Lifting Beef Ban

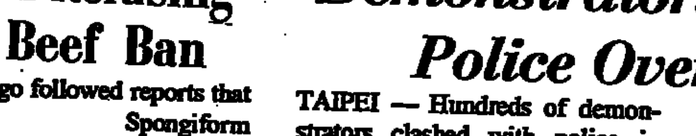
LONDON — Prime Minister John Major Wednesday said the European Commission's refusal to set a timetable for lifting a ban on British beef exports was "on very shaky scientific ground."

Speaking to BBC Radio amid reports his government might decide this week on unilateral action to reduce the size of a proposed cattle cull, Major stopped short of confirming such a move was in the offing.

He promised an early decision on the way ahead for British beef farmers frustrated after six months of uncertainty since the EU embargo followed reports that Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE, or "mad cow" disease) could be transmitted to humans.

A unilateral reduction in the cull Britain agreed at the EU summit in Florence this summer would placate Tory backbench Eurosceptics, but would likely prolong the export ban.

Major, asked if he was prepared to give the rest of the EU an ultimatum — no timetable for lifting the ban, no cattle cull — said: "Well, we're in discussion with the European Uniop about that." (AFP)



Demonstrators Clash With Police Over Islands

TAIPEI — Hundreds of demonstrators clashed with police in Taipei on Wednesday in the latest anti-Japanese protest sparked by rival claims to islands in the east China Sea.

Around 200 demonstrators outside the Interchange Association, Japan's representative office in Taiwan, burned Japanese flags and hurled eggs, witnesses said.

Clashes broke out when protestors tried to force their way into the office to deliver a letter. Some protestors wielded flag poles and threw stones at police, one of whom suffered minor injuries. No arrests were reported.

The association is Japan's nominal embassy as it has had no diplomatic relations with Taiwan since 1972, when it switched recognition to China.

The demonstrations came on the 65th anniversary of Japan's invasion of China which has heightened nationalist sentiments, already fired up by weeks of mounting protests against Japan's actions in the islands, known as the Diaoyu to Chinese and the Senkaku to Japanese. (AFP)

Two Blasts Hit Karachi Leaving One Dead

KARACHI — Two bomb blasts hit Pakistan's commercial capital, Karachi, on Wednesday killing one person and injuring three more, officials said.

Security was immediately intensified at all major buildings in the city which has seen two years of ethnic troubles, officials said.

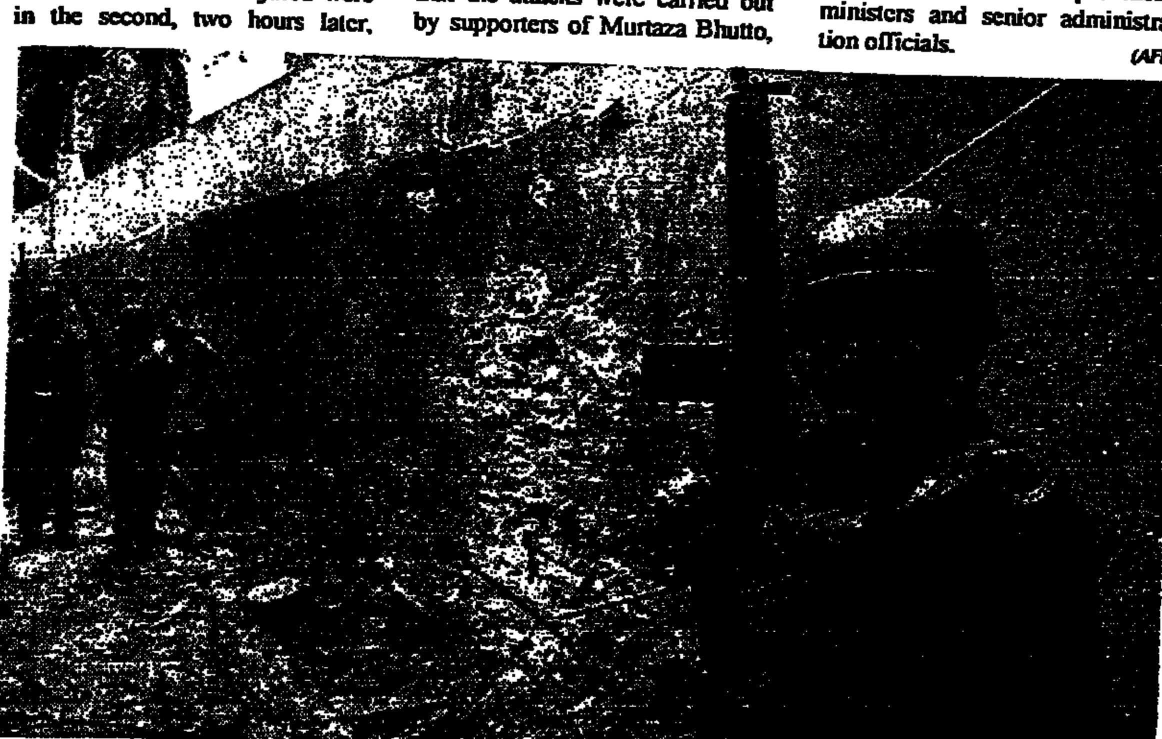
The first explosion destroyed a bank. The dead and injured were in the second, two hours later, which ripped through the Sindh Province government building.

Police said the two bombs were similar and both had timing devices. But they did not name any suspects. "All we can say for now is that it could have been anybody. It is the work of terrorists," a police official told AFP.

Police were working on leads that the attacks were carried out by supporters of Murtaza Bhutto, brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. One of his key activists was arrested Tuesday.

Another officer said the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), Karachi's biggest ethnic political group, had also not been ruled out.

The killer bomb was left against a wall of the government building, which houses provincial ministers and senior administration officials. (AFP)



KARACHI, Pakistan (Sept. 18): Paramilitary soldiers stand alert at the site of a bomb blast in the center of Karachi, Pakistan's commercial capital. The bomb was placed on a side-street against the wall of the prestigious Karachi Gymkhana Club and caused considerable damage to a nearby bank but there were no injuries.

(AFP PHOTO)

Body of Burundi's Archbishop Found

BUJUMBURA — Soldiers in Burundi have recovered the bodies of the country's assassinated Roman Catholic Archbishop, Joachim Ruhuna, and that of a nun who was murdered with him, a military spokesman said Wednesday.

The bodies were found buried in a field after Hutu rebels and troops of the Tutsi-dominated army exchanged fire on Mwumba hillside, not far from the scene of the killings in central Burundi, Lieutenant-Colonel Longin Minani said.

Ruhuna, a member of the Tutsi minority regarded as a man of peace and reconciliation in a country torn by ethnic violence, died on September 9 in an ambush, when his car was torched. (AFP)

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS



BORDEAUX, France - A French court sent a former top civil servant and Gaullist minister for trial for crimes against humanity on Wednesday, turning the spotlight on the shameful days of French collaboration with the Nazis in World War II.

WASHINGTON - Former U.S. Vice President Spiro Agnew, who served under President Richard Nixon from 1969 to 1973 until he resigned on allegations of tax evasion, dies aged 77.

PHNOM PENH — Nearly 100 members of Cambodia's Parliament have given their written support to King Norodom Sihanouk for his weekend pardon of renegade Khmer Rouge leader Ieng Sary.

SAN JOSE - A Dutch couple kidnapped last month in northern Costa Rica was freed by a group of former Nicaraguan guerrillas and both were in good health.

NAIROBI - A U.S. official kidnapped in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, was released Wednesday and handed over to the medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres.

COLOMBO - Tamil Tiger guerrillas exploded a mine in northern Sri Lanka, killing two soldiers and a woman bystander.

JAKARTA - The Indonesian authorities stepped up pressure on opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri with a threat Wednesday to close down her new political headquarters.

BAGUIO, Philippines - An earthquake which measured 4.5 on the Richter scale rocked the northern resort of Baguio on Wednesday.

PENNSYLVANIA - A sniper opened fire Tuesday with a high-powered rifle on the Penn State University campus, killing a student and injuring another.

DIJON, France - A parish priest, father Henri Gau, has been charged with sexually assaulting at least four boys aged between 11 and 14 at a Scout camp last July, judicial sources said on Wednesday.

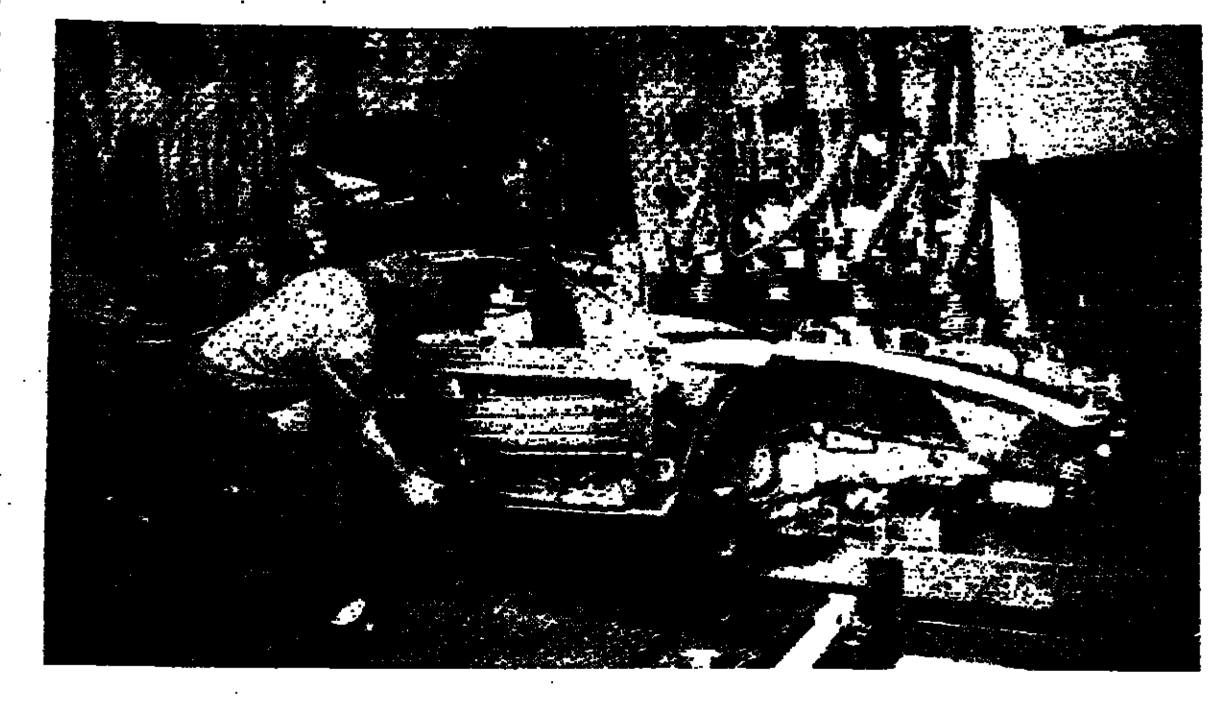
UAW, Ford Reach Tentative Contract Agreement

DEARBORN, Mich. — After nearly four straight days of haggling, Ford Motor Co. and the United Auto Workers on Monday struck a tentative deal for a new national labor contract that guarantees jobs for about 95 percent of the company's 105,000 member hourly work force.

Industry sources said the three-year pact also offers sweetened pension benefits to entice early retirements, but allows Ford to hire new parts plant workers at lower wages.

UAW president Stephen Yokich called the pact a "landmark" but would not discuss details of the pact on Monday. Yokich expected ratification votes by Ford's workers to be completed by Sept. 29.

The union's Executive Board will review the pact on Tuesday, and the union's Ford Council, made up of plant-level leaders, will consider the pact on Wednesday.



Ford agreed to maintain nearly 100,000 hourly UAW jobs over the life of the pact, including maintaining specified levels at individual plants.

Analysts said the agreement, if enforced as the industry pattern, will cause serious difficulties for General Motors Corp, which needs to shed as much as 20 percent of its hourly work force to become competitive.

"I don't think GM can swallow the 95 percent guarantee, especially on a plant-by-plant basis," said Burnham Securities auto analyst David Healy.

Spokespersons for GM and Chrysler Corp declined to comment on the pact.

Yokich declined to say how the pact would affect GM or Chrysler, but he added that his goal all along was to reach "an agreement that all the companies can work with."

The pact also is a step up from the past contract on wages — industry and union sources said it includes a $2,000 bonus in the first year, followed by three percent base wage increases in the second and third years.

Pensions benefits also were increased to about $2,260 a month for workers who retire after 30 years on the job, from about $2,030 currently.

Language on outsourcing — the practice of shifting work to outside suppliers — was not changed significantly, allowing Ford some flexibility on parts purchases, as long as it meets its employment requirements.

Analysts also said the job guarantees showed that Ford was confident in its future growth. "Certainly for Ford they have to believe they are going to do well in terms of market share," said David Garrity, an analyst with Smith Barney Co.

The pact came after marathon bargaining sessions over the weekend and on Monday. Ford's previous three-year contract with the UAW expired at midnight on Saturday.

"You can't imagine the hours that people have put in," Yokich said. "We were very tired last night. We went home and got some sleep because our jobs program was in place."

Yokich also praised Ford chairman Alex Trotman's direct involvement in the talks. "He's been involved. It used to be you had to go up to see the chairman, now he comes down to see you," Yokich said.

Trotman said pact benefits both the company and employees. "It's not a one-way street," he said.

The UAW has not decided yet whether to target General Motors Corp. or Chrysler Corp. for the next round of bargaining. He said the decision would be based partly on the outcome of Canadian talks with Chrysler.

Canadian auto workers president Buzz Hargrove said late on Monday that the union had tentatively settled the key outsourcing issue that had held up labor talks with Chrysler Corp.'s Canadian unit.

"I think it's fair to say we have broken the log jam on the key issue of outsourcing," he told reporters. Hargrove said the agreement met the unions concerns on outsourcing decisions, averting the threat of a Tuesday strike deadline.

(Reuter)

Japan, U.S. Resume Insurance Talks in Tokyo

TOKYO — Japanese and U.S. negotiators resumed insurance talks here in an effort to bridge the gap between the two countries over their bilateral dispute, Finance Ministry officials said.

The Japanese side was led by Shuichiro Hamanaka, deputy director general of the ministry's International Finance Bureau, while the U.S. delegation was headed by James Southwick, deputy assistant of U.S. trade representative.

During one-day talks, the two sides are expected to review compromise plans proposed during bilateral negotiations in Vancouver, Canada, in July over access to the Japanese insurance market, the officials said.

The Japanese side is widely expected to scrap its earlier compromise proposal including deregulation on automobile insurance as its effort to open the primary sector, covering life and non-life insurance.

"Since we have not reached an agreement in Vancouver, the compromise plan would not be effected," a ministry source close to the negotiation was quoted by *Jiji Press* as saying.

Washington insists that deregulatory moves in the market's third sector, which includes injury and medical policies and where foreign firms are already strong, should be postponed until the primary sectors are fully liberalized.

Tokyo hopes to settle the dispute by October 1, when units of Japanese insurers are to start operations in the third sector following the ministry's deregulation measures.

The ministry removed barriers between life and nonlife insurance businesses in August, but held back on the third sector due to the U.S. dispute.

In a 1994 bilateral insurance accord, Japan pledged to avoid "any radical change" in the third sector before deregulating the primary life and nonlife sectors.

(AFP)

Indian Dropout Claims He Can Make Fuel From Herb

MADRAS, India — A South Indian state offered financial backing on Monday to a high school dropout who claims he can make fuel from a green herb and a secret chemical.

Ramar Pillai demonstrated how he makes his purported herbal fuel to M. Karunanidhi, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu state, and reporters in the state capital Madras.

"It doesn't seem to me to be a conjurer's trick or plain magic," Karunanidhi said after the demonstration.

"Having seen it with my own eyes, it is indeed petrol... if it is proved to be a viable proposition, poverty might vanish from Tamil Nadu."

The 36-year-old amateur scientist said he first noticed that the herb, when burned, emitted a smell of petrol while on a 1973 camping trip in the jungle.

(Reuter)

New Tokyo Shopping Mall Sparks Tense Competition

TOKYO — A plan by Japan's ritzy department store operator Takashimaya Co Ltd to open a giant entertainment and shopping mall in Tokyo is sparking fierce competition among other major retailers.

Takashimaya has chosen the downtown Shinjuku district, one of the Busieso shopping areas in Tokyo with 3.5 million customers per day, for its times square project, which opens on October 4.

"Our main purpose is to expand the Shinjuku market, which still has enormous potential," said Masato Sugita, a Takashimaya spokesman.

"Building another ordinary department store would only mean another slice of the same old pie," Sugita said. "What we needed was an innovative facility which can attract a wide range of customers."

Japan's oldest department store operator is investing 160 billion yen ($1.45 billion) in the 55,000 square meter (590,000 square feet) mall with 11 floors.

The new outlet will include the country's largest book and music stores, an indoor amusement park, five types of beauty parlors, a 3-d theater and other attractions, in addition to regular fashion and home appliance sections.

Analysts say the coming of Takashimaya has already ignited fierce competition among retailers.

The new mall will mean a drop in sales of other department stores in Shinjuku and neighboring areas such as Shibuya and Ikebukuro, especially during Takashimaya's first year of operation, said Tomohiro Shibahara, an analyst at the Nikko Research Center.

Mike Allen, senior analyst of Barings Securities said: "Shinjuku's selling space will increase by 30 percent, giving a big decline in sales to surrounding stores, anywhere from seven to 15 percent."

Similarly, Futoshi Saito, senior analyst of Daiwa Institute of Research, expects a total decline of about 40 billion yen ($363 million) in the sales of Isetan and other major department stores in the area during Takashimaya's first operating year.

To counter this, nearby retailers — there are at least five other department stores in Shinjuku, including Isetan Co Ltd and Mitsukoshi Ltd — are expanding their selling space and introducing new brands.

"Isetan will face the least impact, maybe around seven percent," said Allen. "They have come up with an effective counterpolicy."

(Reuter)

Japan GDP Data Confirms Steady Economic Growth

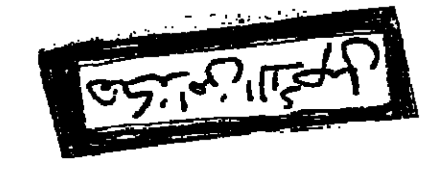
TOKYO — Japan's Economic Planning Agency director general, Shusei Tanaka, said Tuesday gross domestic product (GDP) data released last week confirmed his view that the economy was seeing steady growth.

"The figure did not change my basic view and forecast (of economic growth)," Tanaka told reporters after a regular cabinet meeting.

Tanaka said he was yet to meet Prime Minister Hashimoto to discuss the possibility of compiling a supplementary budget after Friday's GDP data showed a contraction of 0.7 percent in real growth in the three months to June after rising a sharp 2.9 percent in the preceding quarter.

"The GDP data itself will not immediately lead us to compile an additional economic package," Tanaka said.

(AFP)



TV Programs

Thursday Evening, September 19

National Network, Channel 1:

12:30 Focus on Family
12:58 Call to Prayer (Azan)
14:00 News
14:30 Focus on Family
15:45 Kids Corner
16:30 News
17:00 Children's Program
18:00 Interlude
18:15 Lessons From the Holy Qoran
18:50 The Move
19:00 News
19:10 Religious Program
19:25 Call to Prayer (Azan)
19:35 Religious Program
19:45 Imam khomeini's Eepic
19:55 Focus on Majlis
20:40 Press Review
21:00 News
21:30 Commercials _ Music
21:40 Summer 75
22:15 Life and Islamic Jurisprudence
22:45 Commercials
23:00 Weekly Competition
23:15 The Altar of Love (Religious Program)
23:30 Commercials
23:40 Feature Movie

National Network, Channel 2:

13:10 Religious Program
13:20 Interlude
13:30 On the Occasion of Hazrat Zainab's Brithday Anniversary
14:00 Iranian TV Series
15:00 Football School
15:30 Meteorology
16:00 Scientific Cultural Documentary
16:30 Documentary
17:00 Foreigners' Shadow
17:30 Religious Program
18:00 Computer
18:30 Automobile Era
19:00 Children's Program
19:25 Call to Prayer (Azan)
19:35 Religious Program
20:00 Summertime Program
20:30 Scientific-Cultural News
20:45 Religious Program
21:00 Weekly Political Discussion
21:40 Iranian TV Series
22:00 News
22:45 Nightly Notes
23:00 Night-Time Program
23:30 Travel to Gilan
23:45 Great Philosophers

National Network, Channel 3:

16:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations From the Holy Qoran
16:10 Religious Program
16:45 Sports Program
19:25 Call to Prayer (Azan)
19:45 Sports News
20:00 Foreign TV Series
20:45 Unveiled Faces
21:30 Sports Roundup
22:45 News (in English)

National Network, Tehran Channel:

17:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations From the Holy Qoran
17:15 Advisors
17:40 Sport Roundup
18:30 Tehran News
18:45 In the City
19:00 Another Kind
19:25 Call to Prayer (Azan)
19:35 Tehran's Districts
19:50 Economic Magazine
20:00 In the City
20:15 Travelling
20:30 Commercial TV
20:45 Pioneers
21:00 The 5th Look
21:30 Theater in TV
22:00 News, Commentary
22:15 In the City
22:30 Komail Supplications
23:20 Cinema

Friday Morning, September 20

National Network, Channel 1:

10:45 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic
11:00 Message Network
12:25 Recitations from the Holy Qoran
12:58 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network, Channel 2:

08:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations From the Holy Qoran
08:15 Football School
08:45 Great Philosophers
09:15 A New Day
10:00 Children's Program
12:00 Fishing
12:30 Focus on Africa
12:57 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network, Channel 3:

07:30 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations From the Holy Qoran
07:45 Modern Basketball
08:45 Soccer Competition
09:45 Unveiled Faces
10:30 Foreign TV Series
11:15 Religious Program

Investigators Still Uncertain of Cause in TWA Crash

WASHINGTON — Nearly two months after the TWA Flight 800 crash that killed all 230 people aboard, investigators said they remained unsure of the cause and dismissed as "nonsense" suggestions of a cover-up or conspiracy.

"I think we realize (the probe) is not going to be done tonight or tomorrow ... we're in for the long haul," said Robert Francis, vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

Francis, who is heading the investigation into the July 17 disaster, said officials were considering examining the jumbo-jet wreckage pulled from the ocean against another Boeing 747, possibly even exploding an aging aircraft for test purposes.

But Francis and other investigators dismissed as unfounded rumors that a U.S. military missile downed the plane and that authorities were covering up the matter.

"That theory as far as I'm concerned is not on the table," Francis said. "Frankly, I find it enormously difficult to believe that people even consider that. There's nothing I know that would give any credence to that."

James Kallstrom, the leading FBI official in the investigation, called the theory "highly unlikely."

"The notion that it did happen and that we, all of U.S. FBI agents ... are covering this up is nonsense, it's not true, it's an outrageous allegation."

"We're getting total and complete cooperation from the Pentagon at every level," he said in response to a reporter's question.

A senior U.S. military officer said earlier this month that a U.S. naval cruiser armed with anti-aircraft missiles was in the region when the jumbo jet crashed but that the warship was not engaged in any training maneuver.

Kallstrom said the theory of a missile downing the plane remained one of three possible scenarios, in addition to those involving a bomb or mechanical failure in downing the Paris-bound plane that went down shortly after takeoff from New York's John F. Kennedy Airport.

Francis said he had discussed the case with French officials and would likely meet later this month in France with relatives of about 40 French victims "to improve the communications channels" in the matter.

The official said 213 bodies had been recovered from the waters off Long Island — two more than in the latest briefing last month — and that some pieces of debris were still being found by divers.

"As time goes on, there's less and less" debris, he said, adding that the search zone was being expanded.

He said the recovery efforts involving the U.S. Navy and other divers were likely to continue several weeks.

Couple Sentenced to Death for Corruption

BEIJING — A woman police officer and her husband, an official in a local transportation department, have been sentenced to death for embezzling 652,705 yuan ($78,639) in public funds, an official report said.

A court in Jingshan, southwestern Sichuan Province, found Ke Yanling, a first grade officer in the Jingshan Police Department, and her husband, Mu Erti, guilty of taking the funds and sentenced them to death, the newspaper *Sichuan Daily* said in a September 12 report in Beijing.

China has ordered harsher punishment for officials convicted for corruption as part of a national anti-graft and anti-crime campaign.

The brief report did not provide further details or indicate if the sentences had been carried out. Executions usually occur shortly after sentencing, with a single gunshot to the head.

(AFP)

Sony Movie Studios Lose Leading Man

LOS ANGELES — Sony Pictures Entertainment was in for a shakeup at the executive level following the resignation of Mark Canton as head of the the company's Columbia Tristar Movie studios, well informed sources said recently.

Canton's resignation came after a season marked by several flops at Columbia Trastar.

Canton had been with Columbia Tristar for the past two years.

Sony Pictures president Alan Levine had announced Canton's resignation Friday.

Film industry sources believe Canton's departure confirms the problems -- both artistic and managerial -- that have plagued the Sony since the Japanese company acquired a foothold in Hollywood in 1989.

Levine appointed Columbia Tristar vice president Lucy Fisher and president Fred Bernstein to manage the studio temporarily.

Levine had considered Arnold Rifkin, head of the William Morris Agency's film division, to replace Canton. Rifkin himself told his William Morris colleagues that he was in touch with Sony.

According to sources cited by the *Los Angeles Times*, a meeting of Levine, Rifkin, and Sony president Nobuyuki Idei went poorly, resulting in Idei's rejection of Levine's choice.

Idei was reportedly considering a reorganization of the studios that may lead to Levine's departure.

(AFP)

Camilla to Be Barred From Official Royal Functions

LONDON — Prince Charles is to take over an increasing number of official duties from the queen in future, but his heartthrob, Camilla Parker Bowles, will have to be kept out of the public eye, *The Times* reported recently.

The newspaper said that Charles, who has been having an intermittent affair with Camilla over a 20-year period, "has been left in no doubt that his public and official life must exclude Mrs. Parker Bowles".

Buckingham Palace sources told *The Times* that the thorny question of Charles's relationship with the 49-year old divorcee had not come up for discussion at a key royal gathering at Balmoral Castle, in the Scottish Highlands, on Monday.

Queen Elizabeth II met there with her immediate family and top advisors to discuss fundamental changes in the British monarchy going into the 21st century.

But the newspaper said that Prime Minister John Major was believed to have reminded the queen over the weekend that Prince Charles had pledged at the beginning of this year to keep his relationship with Parker Bowles a private matter.

Other reports say that Major also cautioned the queen on the ramifications should Charles decide to marry his long-time mistress.

In a controversial television documentary that was screened before his divorce from Princess Diana, in which he admitted to adultery, Charles told viewers that he would be friends with Parker Bowles "forever".

However, he ruled out marrying her and said that he had "no intention" of remarrying.

Monday's meeting of the so-called way-ahead group — the queen, her husband Prince Philip, sons Princes Charles, Andrew and Edward, her daughter Princess Anne, and her senior counsellors — was the group's first "board meeting" since the divorces this year of Charles from Diana and Andrew from the Duchess of York.

Topics on the agenda included an end to the monarch's historical role as head of the Church of England and to the ban on heirs to the throne marrying Roman Catholics.

The group was also to discuss streamlining the royal family proper to include only the monarch and spouse, their children and those grandchildren who are direct heirs to the throne.

(AFP)

Runaway Boy Disappears Again

LONDON -- A 15-year-old British boy who flew 7,000 miles to Malaysia using his father's passport and credit card last year has vanished from home again, police announced Tuesday.

Peter Kerry hit the headlines in February last year when he made the Malaysian trip after a family argument over spaghetti, and was only found after a six-day worldwide search.

Now he has run away from home again, this time taking his own passport, some money and a change of clothing.

Police believe Peter is heading for Europe and they said they were "increasingly concerned" for his safety.

The teenager, who has a skinhead haircut, was last seen early on Sunday when he set off from home in Harrow, north London, on a paper round on his bicycle. He did not return home.

Peter, who wants to become an airline pilot, has run away from home several times before, once to Paris and another time to Edinburgh.

He took off for the Far East last year while his parents, brother Michael, 12, and sister Helen, nine, were out watching a football match, after he had broken into a locked steel cabinet to take his father's passport.

A search was launched involving police, Interpol and the British High Commission.

After leaving a trail of credit card bills, Peter was finally apprehended six days later while trying to cash traveller's cheques on the Thai-Malaysia border.

(AFP)

Statue of Queen Victoria Defaced in Hong Kong

HONG KONG — A bronze statue of Queen Victoria was covered in red paint here and left with a note attached saying the vandalism had been done in the name of art, police said.

A 27-year-old was later arrested near the statue, which is located in Victoria Park in Hong Kong's Causeway Bay area.

The statue, which dates from the late 19th century, was originally sited next to the building which now houses the territory's legislative council, or mini-parliament.

It was taken by the Japanese during World War II but subsequently brought back and re-located in Victoria park after the war.

(AFP)

Woman Loses Custody of Five-Year-Old Son

LONDON — A divorced mother, 18 weeks pregnant with eight fetuses after fertility treatment, has lost a court battle for custody of her five-year-old son, it was reported.

Mandy Allwood, 31, lost custody of her son, Charles, to his father, Simon Pugh, 33, from whom Allwood was divorced two years ago, but she retains weekend visiting rights, press reports said.

Allwood made headlines around the world this summer when she announced she intended to give birth to all eight babies she was carrying, despite medical advice that most should be aborted to ensure survival of one or two.

Doctors told her so-called selective abortion was standard practice in cases of multiple pregnancy resulting from fertility drugs, and that attempting to carry all eight to term could endanger her health and that of the babies.

Her case was further complicated with the disclosure that Allwood's partner and father of the eight fetuses was also father of another family and was dividing his time between the two.

Doctor Kypros Nicolaides of Kings College Hospital, London, the obstetrician treating Allwood, said at the weekend that her pregnancy was proceeding well, but reiterated his warning on the health hazards of carrying eight fetuses.

Nicolaides had said earlier, "I'm not aware of a single case in the history of the human race where somebody successfully delivered eight babies."

(AFP)

Compensation Considered for Release of Rabbit Virus

SYDNEY - Aboriginal groups and commercial rabbit farmers affected by the release of a virus to reduce Australia's huge rabbit population may receive compensation, a government minister said Monday.

Primary Industries Minister John Anderson said rabbit calicivirus (RCD) would be released at 280 sites nationally in three weeks.

The national farmers federation has welcomed the virus, saying widespread killing of rabbits would benefit farmers by 600-million Australian dollars (474 million US) a year.

But a report by Canberra's Bureau of Resource Sciences said an outbreak of the disease on a rabbit farm would be expensive and the release may detrimentally affect the wild rabbit industry. exported rabbit products in 1994-1995 were worth 200,000 Australian dollars (154,000 us) compared to 3.5 million Australian dollars (2.7 million us) in 1991-1992, and the escape of RCD last year while being tested has caused a further fall in demand for rabbit meat.

"Vaccination and increased quarantine procedures may be required to protect against this, increasing costs to rabbit owners," the report said.

It also advised people to avoid eating rabbits when RCD is released in their area, and said the disease may reduce aboriginal communities' access to rabbit as a cheap source of fresh meat.

Anderson said compensation for commercial farmers and aborigines was being considered.

"There's still some work going on in that admittedly difficult area," he said Monday.

The virus escaped last year while being tested on an island off the southern australian coast, killing millions of mainland rabbits.

Animal welfare groups have raised concerns over whether the virus was a humane method of killing, but the bureau of resource sciences said while there was pain before death, RCD was more humane than other methods.

(AFP)

Low Doses of Hormone Help HIV Patients

NEW YORK - At very low doses, the hormone interleukin 2 (il-2) stimulates the immune functions of some hiv-positive patients without dangerous side effects, a new study says.

Il-2, which plays a key role in the body's ability to fight infection, had been tested on cancer patients 10 years ago and, more recently, on people with AIDS.

The treatment was stopped when patients in the study developed severe flu-like symptoms, high fevers, dramatic drops in blood pressure and shock.

But now a team of scientists at New York hospital-Cornell Medical Center has discovered that il-2 at much lower doses increases the number and boosted the function of lymphocytes, the cells responsible for immune reactions.

The study, conducted on 16 patients with doses between 50 and 100 times less powerful than those previously administered, showed that il-2 could be given daily for six months without adverse side effects.

Dr. Kendall Smith, who headed the study, said that the results indicate it is possible to combine il-2 therapy with chemotherapy to cripple or eradicate the HIV virus.

costing about 3,000 per year, low-dose il-2 therapy is much less expensive than il-2 therapy at higher doses, the study says.

(AFP)

Effective Hospitals Blamed for Decrease in Life Expectancy

COPENHAGEN - Inadequacies in the Danish hospital system are one of the reasons for falling life-expectancy 5n Denmark, a leading anti-cancer campaigner said here Monday.

Denmark, which a few years ago had one of the longest living populations of 20 industrialised countries, now lags behind with an average life expectancy of 75.3.

According to figures from the UN development programme, Japan, whose citizens live to be 79.6 on average, tops the list, followed by Sweden (78.3) and Iceland (78.2).

"We cannot explain this fall by the fact that danes smoke and drink too much, eat fatty foods or are stressed and faced with social problems such as loneliness, unemployment, divorce or suicide," chairman of the association of fighting against cancer, doctor Jens Kristian Goetrik told AFP.

Instead, he blamed the hospital system, of which the danes used to be justifiably proud, but, according to him, has deteriorated.

"There are shortfalls, notably in the treatment of cancer and surgery, a decline in quality, which means denmark is no longer on a par with other European countries."

A survey by Denmark's National Cancer Register has shown that cancer patients in Denmark have a lower chance of survival than in the neighbouring Scandanavian countries of Finland, Norway and Sweden.

"Everything seems to point to delays in the system, and that too much time seems to elapse before the necessary treatment of patients is begun," Goetrik said.

The doctor also condemned the manner in which surgery is carried out, saying that in several cases it had been carried out unacceptably by surgeons who did not have sufficient experience.

As a remedy, he called for treatments for diseases such as cancer to be concentrated in a small number of specialised hospitals, and added that the health ministry was currently considering ways of improving the medical system.

(AFP)

Diagnostic Heart Procedure May increase Death Risk

WASHINGTON - A common hospital procedure called right heart catheterization may not benefit critically ill patients and may cause harm, according to a report in the journal of the American medical association.

Alfred Connors, a physician formerly of case western reserve university at metrohealth medical center in Cleveland, Ohio, and colleagues studied 5,735 critically ill patients.

They sought to evaluate patient survival, length of hospital stay and time spent in the intensive care unit (ICU), hospital costs, and intensity of care for patients who underwent Right Heart Catheterization (RHC) during the first 24 hours in the ICU compared with those who did not.

RHC is a diagnostic test in which a fine tube called a catheter is inserted into the heart through a blood vessel to investigate its condition.

The technique is used to diagnose and assess the extent of heart disease and valvular defects. The procedure is done under local anesthesia.

The catheter is inserted into a vein or artery through a small incision in the groin or elbow. After passing along the blood vessel into the heart, the catheter can measure blood pressure within the heart, withdraw blood to measure its oxygen content or inject an opaque dye for X rays.

The study, reported in an article in this week's issue of the journal, found that RHC not only resulted in a higher mortality rate, it was also associated with more intense care, longer stays in the ICU, and higher hospital costs.

"The cause of this lack of benefit is unclear," the researchers wrote.

Of the 5,735 patients, 2,184 (38 percent) underwent RHC within the initial 24 hours of the ICU stay. Patients who underwent RHC had a 30-day mortality rate that was 24 percent higher than patients who did not have RHC.

Patients with RHC stayed in the ICU for an average of 14.8 days compared with 13.0 days without RHC. Hospital costs averaged $49,300 for those with RHC and $35,700 for those without.

"This study raises serious concerns about the care of the critically ill. These concerns ought to be addressed promptly," the authors wrote.

(AFP)

THOUGHT

If treasures gathered are to be abandoned in the end, why should the man go for it?

(Hazrat Imam Hussein (AS))

PRAYER

Noon 12:59
Evening 19:28
Dawn (tomorrow) 5:16
Sunrise (tomorrow) 6:49

TODAY IN HISTORY

1656 - British fleet under Robert Blake captures Spanish treasure ships off Cadiz, Spain.

1668 - John II (John Casimir) abdicates as king of Poland.

1799 - Austro-Russian army is defeated by British at Bergen-op-Zoom in Holland.

1870 - French surrender Versailles to Germans in Franco-Prussian war.

1898 - British force under Horatio Kitchener reaches Fashoda in Sudan.

1934 - Bruno Richard Hauptmann is arrested in New York and charged with kidnapping the baby of U.S. aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh.

1941 - Germans take Kiev in Soviet Union in World War II.

1955 - Argentina's President Juan Peron is ousted from office after revolts by army and navy.

1962 - China announces it has shelved plans to turn nation into an industrial power within a few years.

1968 - Czech Foreign Minister Jiri Hajek resigns under Soviet pressure.

1971 - Outgoing U.N. Secretary-General Thant pleads with world organization to grant his successor more power

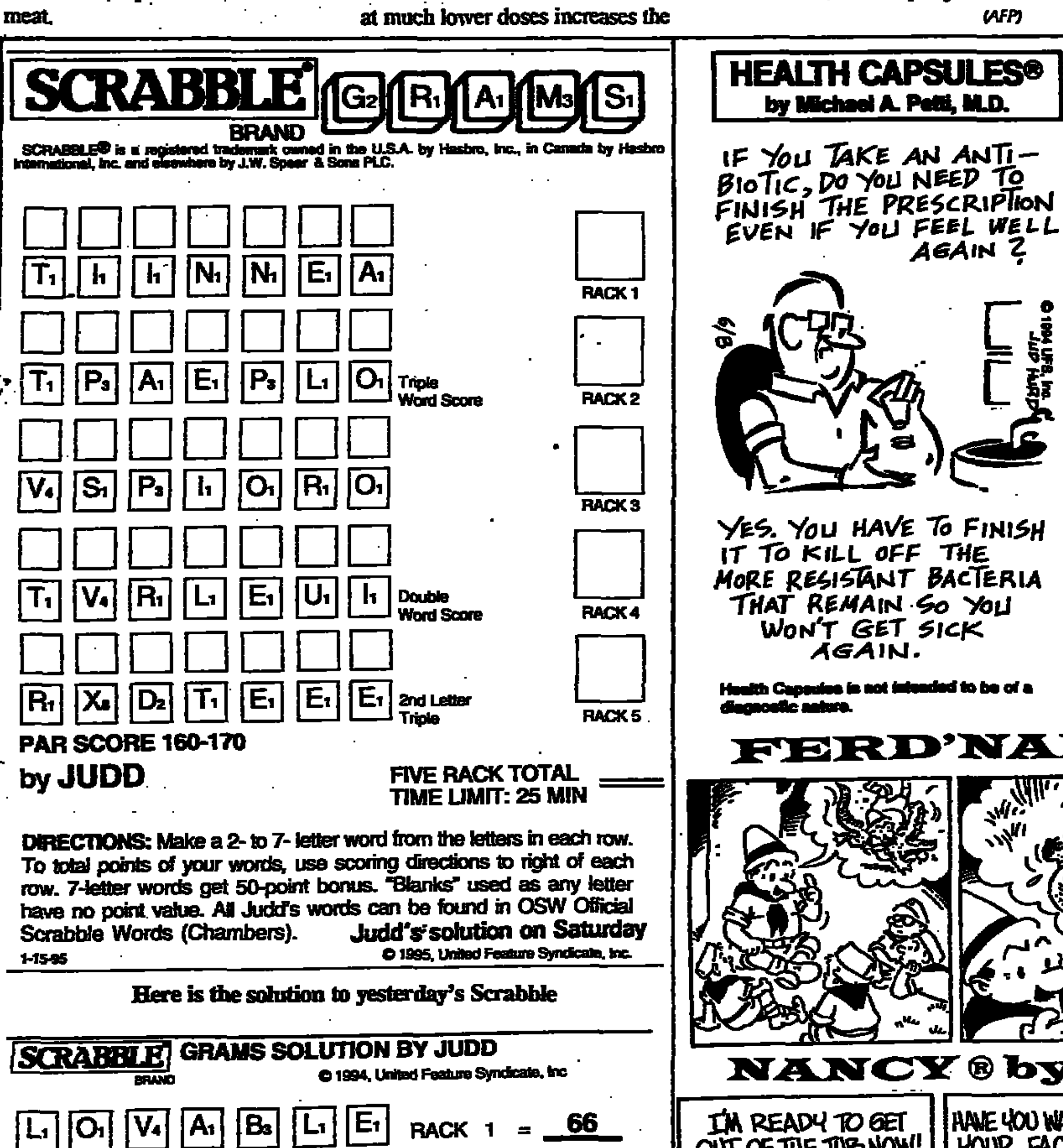
1972 - Israeli diplomats killed and another injured when letter bomb explodes at Israeli Embassy in London.

1988 - Government of Poland's Prime Minister Zbigniew Messner resigns after criticism of its management of the economy.

1989 - Arrest warrants issued in Colombia for two Israelis accused of training death squads for drug lords.

1993 - Israel's supreme court clears the way for the release of John Demjanjuk, setting aside appeals for a new Nazi war crimes trial after delaying his departure five times.

1994 - U.S. troops land in Haiti by sea and air.



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T1 I1 I1 N1 N1 E1 A1 — RACK 1
T1 P3 A1 E1 P3 L1 O1 — Triple Word Score — RACK 2
V4 S1 P3 I1 O1 R1 O1 — RACK 3
T1 V4 R1 L1 E1 U1 I1 — Double Word Score — RACK 4
R1 X8 D2 T1 E1 E1 E1 — 2nd Letter Triple — RACK 5

PAR SCORE 160-170

by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). Judd's solution on Saturday

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Here is the solution to yesterday's Scrabble

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD © 1994, United Feature Syndicate, Inc

L1 O1 V4 A1 B3 L1 E1 — RACK 1 = 66
N1 E1 I1 G2 H4 S1 — RACK 2 = 10
C3 A1 V4 E1 M3 A1 N1 — RACK 3 = 70
E1 X8 O1 T1 I1 C3 — RACK 4 = 15

PAR SCORE 100-110 JUDD'S TOTAL 161

1-14-95

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HEALTH CAPSULES®
by Michael A. Petti, M.D.

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An Insane Decision

By Gwynne Dyer
Tehran Times Service

LONDON — After nearly three years of haggling over the text, the other 60 countries at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament had all agreed on a Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), but India was adamant. "In our view," said Indian Ambassador Arundhati Ghose, "the conference has no text for a Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty."

It was an Indian leader, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who first proposed a complete ban on nuclear weapons tests more than 40 years ago. Finally, everybody else has come around to the idea, but the conference on disarmament works by consensus — and it is India, of all places, that is blocking the treaty. Why?

New Delhi says that it wants the existing nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain — to set a date for total nuclear disarmament before it signs away its own right to test nuclear weapons. A nobly idealistic stand — except that other countries whose size, wealth or exposure gives them just as much claim to nuclear weapons status (Germany, Japan, Pakistan, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia) are not blocking the treaty.

It would be good to abolish all nuclear weapons on the planet, but there is no consensus on that yet. Miraculously, there is a consensus on banning all nuclear weapons tests, which will greatly hinder both the development of new weapons by existing nuclear powers, and the spread of nuclear weapons to new countries.

Perhaps the Indians, in blocking the CTBT, are just making the error of letting the best be the enemy of the good. Or perhaps their real motives are less lofty. For the clause in the draft treaty that most annoys New Delhi is one stating that all three "threshold nuclear powers" — Israel, India and Pakistan — have to sign the treaty before it goes into effect.

One of the countries that insisted on that clause was China, India's neighbor and main potential rival for Asian superpower status. Why? Because China has already tested dozens of nuclear weapons and has built an arsenal of several hundred, while India has tested one and built none. Beijing would like to keep it that way, and sees the CTBT as a way of freezing the Indians out.

The Indian government, with broad support from its own policy elites and the domestic mass media, is refusing to play.

From an Indian national perspective based on traditional short-term strategic calculations, this makes perfect sense. From a long-term global perspective, it is insane.

For the first time since 1945, we have arrived at a point where every single acknowledged possessor of nuclear weapons is willing to ban all testing forever more. Every other country that might aspire to nuclear weapons is willing to sing away its right to test them forever. This may be a once-in-a-century opportunity — and India is sabotaging it in order to retain a right it has not exercised for the past 22 years.

For all practical purposes, India already has nuclear weapons. Its only test of a "nuclear explosive device", allegedly for peaceful purposes, was at Pokaran in 1974, but everybody assumes it has a number of bombs in an all-but-assembled state, and since 1988 it has been testing the Prithvi surface-to-surface missile, which is a nuclear-delivery vehicle.

The CTBT would not stop India from doing all this; it would simply oblige it not to explode any of its nuclear weapons in a test again. That's what the other two "threshold" nuclear states, Pakistan and Israel, were also asked to do at Geneva, and they both agreed to comply even though they have never conducted a test.

Pakistan, which has fought three wars with India, plunged into a crash nuclear weapons program after India's Pokaran test in 1974, and now has around half a dozen atomic weapons of its own. But it has never tested them.

The Israelis now have at least 200 nuclear weapons: Their tactical warheads are stored near Eilabun in eastern Galilee, and 50 underground bunkers at Kfar Zekharya in the Judean hills west of Bait-ul-Moqaddas house at least 50 Jericho never tested their nukes, either, but they are willing to sign.

And apart from the three "threshold states", everybody else who once had a secret nuclear weapons program has now dropped it.

In 1990, former South African President F.W. De Klerk ordered the dismantling of the six bombs South Africa built in the 1980s. He later opened all the country's records and nuclear installations to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors.

Iraq got to within three months of testing an atomic bomb in early 1991, but the United Nations monitoring system imposed after Iraq's defeat in the Persian Gulf war has effectively ended that risk. "There's no possibility at present in Iraq for continuing any covert nuclear program and developing the bomb," said Maurizio Zifferero, deputy chairman of the IAEA, last August.

Argentina abandoned its nuclear weapons program after the fall of the junta in 1982, and Switzerland stopped hoarding weapons-grade uranium in 1988. Romania stopped working on the bomb after dictator Nicolae Ceaucescu was killed in 1989, the Brazilian nuclear arms program was officially buried in 1990 and North Korea has been bullied and bribed into halting its nuclear weapons program over the past two years.

So the timing is perfect for a Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty. Apart from Indian strategists who want to test a warhead for the Prithvi missile, nobody wants to test right now. India's veto is no more short-sighted than a hundred other decisions by the great powers during the nuclear era, but it comes at a uniquely bad time.

The conference on disarmament closes with no agreement to forward the CTBT text to the United Nations, but all is not lost. Later this autumn, a broad coalition of countries will almost certainly submit the same text to the United Nations General Assembly, where India has no veto. Then, over the next few year, everybody else can sign on — and unanimity minus one is still worth having.

Dole Picks Up Momentum From Polls, Perot's Exclusion From Debate

SAN DIEGO, California — Boosted by the exclusion of Texas billionaire Ross Perot from the presidential debate, Republican Bob Dole said he is itching to take on President Bill Clinton "one on one."

Perot was yanked from this year's presidential debates after debate organizers said the Reform Party candidate has no "realistic chance" of winning the November 5 vote.

"It's become abundantly clear that one of two men will be in the White House next January and that's going to be Bob Dole or Bill Clinton and this makes it a hell of a lot more likely that it's going to be Bob Dole," Dole said.

Dole made his comment during a stop in Phoenix, Arizona, where he visited at an ailing Barry Goldwater, the founding father of the conservative movement.

Careful not to offend Perot, whose appeal could still siphon off Dole votes and who potentially holds possible Dole supporters, the Republican candidate broached the topic of Perot supporters gingerly.

"I want to reach out to the Perot supporters, obviously. I'm not trying to suggest anything but ... I'm going to reach out. I think we are the Reform Party," Dole said.

"We've tried to demonstrate that to Mr. Perot. I don't know what he'll do. Obviously, he'll have $29 million to do something with," said Dole, referring to Perot's campaign chest, which receives federal funds.

Commission rules require that participants be on enough state ballots to have a mathematical chance of obtaining the 270 electoral votes needed to secure a November 5 victory.

In 1992, Perot's good performance in debates with Clinton and then-President George Bush was credited with rallying voters to his independent candidacy.

Before the 1992 debates, Perot was polling around seven percent but he eventually won 19 percent of the vote partially on the strength of his debate performances.

Thus far, the Democratic and Republican candidates have not agreed on the number, dates or duration of the debates. The first had been set for September 25, the same day that Clinton is to address the United Nations.

Dole also sucked momentum from an ABC news nationwide poll released Monday putting him eight points behind Clinton, the closest he's come since his short-lived boost from the Republican convention.

"Now its down to single digits again," said Dole as he trawled for votes in California — the crown jewel with 54 of the possible 270 electoral votes — where Clinton has held a solid 16- to 20-point lead.

"All the polls are changing according to what I hear," he told an enthusiastic crowd of about 500 supporters here at a community concourse festooned with red, white and blue balloons.

After he finished speaking, there were six loud explosions as a replica of the Statue of Liberty's torch spewed fireworks. The band "Tongue in Groove" played "We Are Family."

Dole has relentlessly tackled California despite its strong Democratic Party leanings, pumping $450,000 in television ads here, an estimated 15 percent of his total national advertising campaign.

While Dole strategists don't expect a reversal of political fortunes here, they are hoping to force Clinton to also spend chunks of his war chest here to hold on to his lead.

Over the next two days during his stops here and in Los Angeles, Burbank and Chico, Dole will strum themes that play well in California — drugs, crime, illegal immigration — while accusing Clinton of failing in those areas.

"There are over a million more children using drugs today that the day Bill Clinton was elected. That's enough kids to fill every football stadium in America," he said.

"How did this happen? It happened because the Clinton administration let the drug war fall of the radar screen," he said. "Under Bill Clinton, America's drug policy has gone from "just say no" to "just say nothing." (AFP)

Police Chief Threatens to Shut Down Megawati's Headquarters

JAKARTA — Indonesia's police chief has warned that authorities would shut down the newly-opened headquarters of opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri, a report said.

"We will move in when they (Megawati's people) use the office to disrupt public order," Lieutenant General Dibyo Widodo was quoted as saying by the *Jakarta Post* daily.

Megawati, ousted as Indonesian Democracy Party (PDI) leader by a government-backed party faction in June, opened the new headquarters in southern Jakarta.

The old PDI headquarters was raided by the rival faction with the backing of troops on July 27. The violent takeover sparked mass riots which left at least five dead and more than 100 injured.

Officials, including Home Minister Yogie Memed and military's head of sociopolitical affairs Syarwan Hamid have said Megawati's new office was illegal and that security authorities would shut it down.

Neither the police nor PDI officials could be reached for comment.

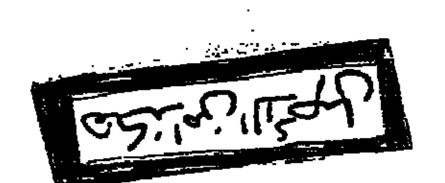
Meanwhile Suryadi, the new government-sanctioned PDI leader, was jeered by a large crowd at a soccer match here.

Shouts of "Long Live Megawati," "Megawati Yes, Suryadi No," thundered in Senayan, Jakarta's main soccer field, as the crowd of thousands spotted Suryadi among the spectators, the *Berita Buana* daily said.

On Monday the government rejected a parliamentary candidates' list by Megawati's party faction, which included her name, and accepted a list submitted by Suryadi.

Only candidates nominated by Indonesia's three official parties — the ruling Golkar Party, the Muslim-oriented United Development Party (PPP), and PDI — are allowed to take part in the general elections, set to take place next year.

(AFP)



Apple Seeks to Break Out of Its Isolation

WASHINGTON — Apple Computer is hoping to break out of its long isolation from the rest of the computer industry with a new series that uses much of the technology of its longtime rivals.

The new Macintosh computers expected to be unveiled at a November trade show and marketed in mid-1997 will likely give the struggling manufacturer some ammunition to fight its powerful rivals that use Intel-Windows technology.

The new Macintoshes, developed under the so-called common hardware reference platform (CHRP) adopted by Apple, IBM and Motorola, will accept the Windows NT operating system of Microsoft, according to Apple sources.

By building a machine capable of using both the Microsoft operating system used by most personal computers as well as Apple's own system, the California-based firm hopes to win back customers, especially businesses that have been jumping ship.

Although Apple has cut its losses dramatically since the arrival of chief executive Gilbert Amelio, it has seen its market share dwindle to around seven percent, according to industry figures.

Among lucrative business firms, the market share is down to four percent following the defection of big companies like Dow Chemical, Northern Telecom, Eli Lilly and Monsanto, which have adopted the Windows-Intel system.

By using the CHRP, Apple also hopes to cut production costs and eliminate the price advantage of other PC makers. The new production system will give Apple a wider range of suppliers, and presumably, lower costs.

In February Amelio said it would take about nine months before the group regained profitability.

Apple's most recent quarter loss amounted to $32 million, narrowing the gap from some $740 million in the previous period.

The company has sold its stake in America Online and has decided to streamline its product line and license its operating system to "clone" makers.

Still analysts are divided over the CHRP, which will give Apple a hybrid machine that will be facing tough competition from PC makers with proven technology.

As part of the move, Apple is delaying the introduction of its new operating system dubbed Copland, which Amelio says will be released in increments.

(AFP)

Light at the End of Tunnel for Cambodia's Troubled Railways

PHNOM PENH — For the first time in more than a year Cambodia's long-troubled railway system is entirely operational, leading officials to cautiously predict that its trains are rolling toward a brighter future.

Late last month, the first train in 14 months pulled out of Phnom Penh's central station heading to the northwest city of Battambang, some 291 kilometers (180 miles) away, with services going on after that to Sisiphon, another 68 kilometers (42 miles) northwest.

The recently re-opened Phnom Penh-Battambang-Sisophon route — which should take 12 hours — now lasts two and a half days, with overnight stops required in Pursat and Battambang.

Since June 1995, the Phnom Penh-Battambang line had been closed due to continuing sabotage by the rebel Khmer Rouge to the tracks north of Pursat, the halfway point in the route, according to Reth Boeun, transportation manager for the railroad.

"Before August 30, some stretches of that track had been unusable for 19 out of the last 20 months," he said, noting that destruction of railroad track had been a priority for the rebels who are seeking to destabilize the country.

But the recent well-publicized split in the guerrilla faction has left railway officials optimistic that acts of sabotage — often home-made bombs or landmines detonated to blow up small sections of track — will become less frequent.

"Fears of Khmer Rouge interference have been the main impediment to the system's development," said railway director Pech Kim Sreng.

But the drop in sabotage is not the only bright spot.

Studies are now underway for rail links between Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh City and Loc Ninh in Vietnam as well as the restoration of the line between Sisophon and the eastern Thai city of Aranyaprathet.

These plans are part of an ambitious project, discussed at a regional transport conference in Bangkok in February, to establish rail links throughout Southeast Asia, Pech Kim Sreng said.

Domestically, the railway system is likely to get a boost from a new dry port and storage facility now under construction outside of Phnom Penh.

Scheduled to open before the end of next year, the $20-million project is located next to railway tracks on Cambodia's southern rail route to the deep-water port at Sihanoukville.

Though moving containers by truck is less costly at the moment, Goh Seng Khong, a representative of the Singapore-based company building the facility envisions relying on rail transport heavily as improvements to it are completed.

"We will be geared to deal with the railway for a long time," he said.

Just as in the north, security on the southern route — which became infamous two years ago when three Western tourists were kidnapped from a southbound train in a Khmer Rouge ambush and later killed — has improved.

"There have been no security problems on the southbound line in the last two years and that service had been uninterrupted," Pech Kim Sreng said, adding however that a ban on foreigners riding the rails, instituted after the kidnapping, remains in place.

For Cambodian passengers, rail service is shockingly slow, but gradually improving.

The recently re-opened Phnom Penh-Battambang-Sisophon route — which should take 12 hours — now lasts two and a half days, with overnight stops required in Pursat and Battambang.

In some parts of the route, the train must slow to only 10 kilometers (six miles) an hour because of concern over the state of the newly repaired track and lingering concerns about landmines and bombs, Reth Boeum said.

But he added that further rehabilitation of all 594 kilometers (368 miles) of existing meter-gauge track to increase speed was the railroad's first priority and work would continue apace.

Though Cambodia's rolling stock is aging and limited, consisting mainly of cars, coaches and diesel locomotives purchased in the 1950s and 1960s but also including four 1920s-era steam engines, Reth Boeum said upgrading the lines is now more important than increasing the number of cars.

"In 1992 we carried (returning) refugees from Sisiphon to Phnom Penh. We didn't stop, we didn't sleep."

"The problem is not the trains, it's the track," the 20-year railway veteran said, harkening back to 1992 when the tracks were trouble free for a time because of the presence of a United Nations peacekeeping mission.

"In 1992 we carried (returning) refugees from Sisiphon to Phnom Penh," he said with a gleam. "We didn't stop, we didn't sleep."

(AFP)

Internet Blackmailers Arrested

HAMBURG, Germany — Three Germans who used the Internet to blackmail a U.S. software firm in Florida, have been arrested in the north German city of Hamburg, police said recently.

A police spokesman said the trio, aged between 19 and 26, had told the U.S. firm in July that they would destgoy all its data unless they were paid $30,000.

To prove they were serious, the blackmailers accessed a file containing the names of 11,000 customers of the firm. The ransom was supposed to be sent to them at a post office in Hamburg.

At the end of August, police and CIA officials intercepted a 20-year-old youth who had gone to get the money from the post-office. The boy claimed he had been hired for $5,000 to fetch the cash.

The investigation then led to a 19-year-old unemployed youth and a computer analyst aged 26 believed to have masterminded the plan.

(AFP)

Japanese Satellite Provides First Ozone Images

WASHINGTON — A NASA instrument aboard a Japanese satellite has provided its first picture of the atmospheric ozone layer, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said recently.

"We are extremely pleased with the quality of this first image," said P.K. Bhartia, a project scientist on the Total Ozone Mapping Spectrometer (TOMS) project.

The spectrometer is carried by the Advanced Earth Orbiting Satellite (ADEOS), a Japanese satellite developed by the United states and France and launched on August 17.

The instrument measures ozone by comparing the level of ultraviolet light produced by the sun to that scattered from the earth's atmosphere back to the satellite.

"It will also continue to measure the concentrations of sulfur dioxide in the atmosphere in the wake of volcanic eruptions, thus extending the existing database of more than 100 eruptions, including Mount Pinatubo in 1991 and El Chichon in 1982," said Arlin Krueger, a top official with the project.

(AFP)

Microsoft Unveils New Member of Windows Family

REDMOND, Washington — The U.S. software giant Microsoft Corporation unveiled a new operating platform for a broad range of communications, entertainment and computing devices.

Dubbed Windows CE, the new platform will offer new non-PC business and consumer devices that can communicate with each other, share information with Windows-based PCs and connect to the Internet, the company said in a statement.

The platform is an operating system plus additional software that makes it possible, for example, for smaller, hand-held computers to share data with desk-top computers equipped with Microsoft's Windows 95 operating system.

The first products based on Windows CE, a new category of computers called hand-held PCs, should be on the market before the end of the year, the company said in a statement.

Microsoft said Windows CE was also designed for use by a variety of business and consumer devices, such as "wallet" PCs, digital information pagers and cellular smart phones.

It would also be compatible with Internet access devices such as Internet TVs and Internet "Web phones," the company said.

"Windows CE extends our vision of 'information at your fingertips' beyond the PC to a variety of computer-based devices for customers, whether they are at home, in the office, at school or on the road," said Microsoft chairman Bill Gates.

Craig Mundie, a Microsoft official responsible for the new product, said the first pocket-size computers based on Windows CE would sell for less than $500 and would be introduced at a trade fair in Las Vegas in mid-November.

Five groups are working with Microsoft to manufacture the pocket-sized computers: Philips of the Netherlands, LG Electronics of South Korea, Casio and NEC of Japan and the U.S. firm Hewlett-Packard.

(AFP)

"See You Between 4 1/2 Months and Year"

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida — Brenda Blaha knew what she'll tell her space-addicted husband before he rocketed away Monday to the Russian space station Mir.

"Well, I'll see you anywhere between 4 1/2 months and a year, how's that?"

"This is what he's always wanted to do. And he was made for it. ... he just loves it."

She laughed hard — something she does often — as she shared stories about her 29-year marriage to a combat pilot, test pilot, space shuttle commander and space station tenant, and his passion for space.

"This is what he's always wanted to do," Mrs. Blaha said in a rare interview by an astronaut's spouse. "And he was made for it. ... he just loves it.

"First time he came down, 'I'm glad to see you, but.' Every time, 'I'm glad to see you, but.' I bet when he comes down he'll say the same thing."

She doesn't mind.

"I accept that this is what he's going to do," she said, adding that she doesn't worry for his safety. "The only time I worried was when he went to Vietnam."

John Blaha, 54, a retired air force colonel and four-time space shuttle flier, is supposed to spend four months living on Mir with two Russian cosmonauts and working on science experiments. He will replace Shannon Lucid, who's been up there since March, 1 1/2 months longer than planned.

Lucid's tour of duty was increased because of shuttle booster problems and hurricanes that forced Atlantis off the launch pad and back into the hangar twice.

Everything, finally, was looking good for a pre-dawn liftoff by Atlantis on Monday, with Blaha and five other astronauts.

John Blaha, 54, a retired air force colonel and four-time space shuttle flier, is supposed to spend four months living on Mir with two Russian cosmonauts and working on science experiments. He will replace Shannon Lucid, who's been up there since March, 1 1/2 months longer than planned.

At the very least, Blaha will miss the winter college graduation of his youngest child, Carolyn, as well as Thanksgiving and Christmas at home with the family in Houston. Besides Carolyn, the Blahas have two sons and a 2-year-old grandson. Another grandchild is due in March.

A Mary Kay Cosmetics consultant, Mrs. Blaha is active in church and military social groups and says she'll have plenty to do while her husband is away.

The 49-year-old Mrs. Blaha plans a two-week trip to Arizona with her mother and may have new hardwood floors installed at home. A new car purchase is off until he gets back — "he wants to be there to pick it out."

Mrs. Blaha accompanied her husband to Russia for 1 1/2 years of cosmonaut training for this mission, but, that's as far as she'll go.

"I'm a chicken," she said. "I would never ride up on one of those things, never, nnnh-nnnh. I don't even like roller coasters."

(AP)

Egypt to Design a Drill for Russian Mars Mission

CAIRO, Egypt — Egyptian scientists will design a drill for a Russian mission to Mars in 2001 that will search for life.

A protocol was signed between Egyptian officials and representatives of the Russian Space Research Institute after a two-day meeting in Cairo. Also attending were members of the American non-governmental Planetary Society.

"Egypt agrees to perform a conceptual design of a drill to work on the surface of Mars. Implementation will follow after discussions with the Russian counterpart," the protocol said.

"The drill will be an exciting and important part of a Mars mission search for possible life on Mars and for use in measuring the sub-surface and the composition of Mars," the protocol said.

Egyptian scientist Farouk el-Baz, who attended the meeting, recently told Cairo's *Al-Ahram* weekly newspaper that Egypt's scientists have good experience using remote-sensing equipment from their research on the pyramids.

(AP)

Oracle to Market Internet Terminals

PARIS — Oracle, which produces database software, is to market its first Internet terminals in six months' time, company president Larry Ellison said recently.

He told the *Les Echos* newspaper that the so-called "network computer" on which his group has based its strategy, would be ready from this month but would not be put on the market for six months.

"Network operators must hurry in setting up the services needed for the network computer," he said.

The interview was published before a debate on Monday here between Ellison and the head of the Microsoft software company, Bill Gates.

Gates has expressed great skepticism about the use of Internet terminals although his company announced recently that it was working on a simplified version of its Windows software for use on Internet terminals.

(AFP)

UN General Assembly Session Opens in Sombre Mood

UNITED NATIONS — The UN General Assembly on Tuesday opened its 51st session in the presence of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, against a backdrop of financial and leadership crises.

Malaysian Ambassador Razali Ismail, who was acclaimed president of the 185-nation assembly, commented that the session was opening "without celebration" and needed to focus on finding "a political consensus on what the UN should be and what it can do."

The session's first week is expected to be dominated by procedural matters pending the arrival of world leaders and foreign ministers in time for the September 24 signing ceremony for a global test-ban treaty.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty's opening for signing, following its adoption last week by the UN General Assembly, will be the centerpiece of the session which is to be addressed by U.S. President Bill Clinton and other heads of state, government leaders and foreign ministers.

But the mood is currently sombre at the United Nations, which is in the throes of an unprecedented financial crisis. The world body is owed a total $2.8 billion by member states, more than half of which is owed by the UN's largest contributor, the United States.

Boutros-Ghali's leadership is meanwhile being questioned by Washington, and reform efforts are stalled.

The United States is insisting that a new secretary-general is needed to push a more vigorous reform agenda, and says that its decision to veto Boutros-Ghali for a second five-year term is irrevocable.

Razzali, in his short speech, said that the session was opening "without celebration but amidst criticism of the UN's ability to respond adequately to international crises."

"The UN as an organization faces a financial crisis that threatens to cripple it. The organization's effectiveness is seen to be hampered by allegations of mismanagement and inefficiency, and a dysfunctional institutional framework."

In a further indirect criticism of 73-year old Boutros-Ghali, Razzali said that "inspired leadership" was among the prerequisites for achieving "a relevant and vital UN for the future."

Razzali's country, Malaysia, is openly campaigning for Boutros-Ghali's replacement.

Five General Assembly working groups set up by Boutros-Ghali are expected to report back to the 51st session that they are deadlocked, notably those on finances and on enlargement of the 15-member Security Council.

At a news conference here on Monday, outgoing assembly president Diogo Freitas do Amaral urged the five Security Council permanent members to state clearly their position concerning council enlargement.

He said that their failure to do so had contributed to the slow progress at a working group on the issue. The five permanent members are Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

The group has failed to come up with specific recommendations on the number of new permanent and nonpermanent council members, and on the key veto issue.

In addition to electing assembly and committee officials this week, states with diplomatic relations with Taiwan are expected to push for the nationalist island to regain the UN seat that it lost to Beijing in 1971.

But the annual bid to have the issue put onto the General Assembly agenda is expected to fail. A total 16 states support the move this year.

On Tuesday, a Taiwanese delegation was unable to hand over a cheque for $160,000 to the United Nations, apparently because UN officials feared an angry reaction from Beijing.

(AFP)

Serbs, Muslims Work to Recover Srebrenica Remains



DONJI MRATINCI, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Bosnian government and Serb forensic teams began working together to recover the remains of hundreds of people scattered around hillsides northwest of Srebrenica.

"Can you imagine that almost yesterday we were fighting against each other, now we are working side by side," said Amor Masovic, head of the Bosnian Government's Experts' Commission for the Return of POWs (prisoners of war) and Missing Persons.

But he criticized the international community, and the NATO-led Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) in particular, for failing to assist the work of recovering the bodies of people killing while trying to flee Srebrenica.

The eastern Muslim enclave was stormed by Bosnian Serb forces in July 1995 after three years of siege.

"The international community was responsible when these people were killed and they'd don't want to help now," Masovic said.

"IFOR refused to provide any assistance. They refused to help us, telling us it was not IFOR's area of responsibility," he added.

The Chief of the Serb Commission, Dragan Bulajic, told AFP the bodies carpeting the wooded hillside were part of a group of 8,000 Muslim soldiers who had tried to reach Bosnian government-held territory, dismissing as "politics" the government commission's view that they were those of murdered civilians.

A witness who spoke on condition of anonymity, said only about 200 soldiers were among a trail of 15,000 civilians who had tried to flee the Serbs.

(AFP)

Teachers Back Expelling Violent Children

LONDON — Recalcitrant children who habitually attack classmates and teachers and disrupt lessons are causing problems for British schools that find themselves increasingly powerless to deal with them.

Corporal punishment has long been outlawed in British schools.

And the alternative of expelling violent pupils is often challenged by parents who claim the government is obligated to educate their children and, if a child is violent, it is the school's problem, not the parents'.

Parents protesting the expulsion of their children are often backed by school governors, independent boards that arbitrate such cases, and teacher unions are increasingly resorting to strikes to keep out violent pupils.

A five-year-old boy from Essex in eastern England, who assaulted teachers and classmates, is receiving private home lessons at public expense after teachers threatened to go on strike if he remained.

Matthew Wilson, 10, was expelled from his school in Worsop, northern England, for disruption and violence, but the school governors overturned the expulsion.

When teachers threatened to strike, a compromise was found: private, one-to-one lessons for the boy at school but in complete isolation from the rest of the pupils.

But those lessons would cost 14,000 pounds ($21,000) a year, and when the other parents realized it would come out of the school's own budget and not from the regional council, they were furious.

Hundreds of them signed a petition demanding Matthew's expulsion, and dozens took their children out of school in protest.

All but eight of those children have returned, and the school district says the private lessons will continue. But the case pointed up a growing problem.

A total of more than 12,000 children were expelled from British schools in 1994-95, compared with 4,000 five years earlier, and teachers blame the increase on parental laxity in disciplining children at home.

But there are problems there, too.

A 12-year-old boy is suing his parents in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, claiming his stepfather inflicted illegal punishment by caning him.

Schools claim some parents encourage their children to defy teachers who try to discipline them.

The parents of Andrew Eaton, a problem child, are suing the local education authority in Trafford, northern England, because of the "mental injury" that his expulsion had caused.

Andrew was expelled after his parents refused to let him sign a contract agreeing to obey his teachers and behave properly.

"When children arrive at school on their first day — even nursery school — totally out of control, there is nothing teachers can do," said Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of Nasuwt, the largest teachers' union in Britain.

Problems have been exacerbated by the closure of special schools for children with behavior problems or mild handicaps. In the last 10 years, 220 such schools have been closed, and the children have had to return to normal classes.

"Integrating emotionally disturbed children into mainstream education, who would previously have gone into special schools, has been a disaster," said De Gruchy, who said this "integrationist" philosophy was just a money-saving ploy.

Teachers are demanding greater authority in dealing with disruptive pupils.

They want the parental right to appeal expulsions revoked, and they are demanding the right to detain disruptive pupils after school without parental permission.

Teachers also want "good behavior contracts" made a standard admission requirement in schools.

Teachers' unions are increasingly flexing their political muscle, and some of the measures they demand to deal with recalcitrant pupils may become law when a Ministry of Education bill goes before Parliament this fall.

(AFP)

Zaire Troops Reported to Have Beaten Two UN Staff

UNITED NATIONS — Zairean soldiers beat up two UN staff members after television reports accused a UN aid agency of helping Rwandan groups infiltrate the country, UN sources said.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a statement, said that accusations against the UN High Commissioner for Refugees carried on television had "caused serious security problems for United Nations personnel working in the region."

He said he "categorically rejects these allegations as completely unfounded and urges the government of Zaire to take steps to clarify the situation."

The statement gave no further details but UN sources said the television report broadcast over the weekend apparently prompted the arrest and subsequent beatings of two UN staff members in southern Zaire. No names were released.

Zaire said its troops clashed with armed groups of Banyamulenge Tutsi infiltrators and accused neighboring Rwanda and Burundi of raising tension by backing the raids. The Rwandan government denied the charges.

UN sources said Zaire also alleged that the Rwandan troops had traveled in UNHCR vehicles.

The Banyamulenge are mostly Tutsis originally of Rwandan origin who have lived in eastern Zaire for decades or more.

A UNHCR spokesman in Kigali said 411 refugees had crossed into southwestern Rwanda from eastern Zaire since Sunday.

Spokesman Khassim Diagne said the refugees all reported they were fleeing violence, with some of their compatriots, jailed, robbed, attacked, manhandled and starved.

The already poor relations of the Banyamulenge Tutsis with local Zairean tribes and the Zairean Army worsened with the arrival of more than a million Rwandan Hutus who fled Rwanda after the 1994 killings. The massacres resulted in the deaths of up to one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus by Hutu extremists before the Tutsis took power.

(Reuter)

Benin Expels 140 Ghanaians to Accra

ACCRA — Benin has expelled 140 illegal immigrants and sent them home to Ghana, together with two people from Liberia, a senior official in the Ghanaian capital Accra said.

Beninese authorities have rounded up many immigrants, mostly from other West African countries, following a spate of armed robberies which has cost many lives in the economic capital Cotonou, the official of Ghana's National Mobilization Program said.

He said the deportees were all males, aged between 16 and 35, and mostly artisans, barbers, shoeshine boys and dealers in second-hand clothes and shoes, who did not have residence permits.

The men arrived empty-handed and complained that they had been starved for about two days, he said. They have since been sent to their various regions by transport provided by the mobilization program.

The Liberians have been placed in a refugee camp.

They were detained by security personnel for four days after their arrests last week and then sent to the Aflao border post between Togo and Ghana, where they were handed over to Ghanaian immigration officials.

The official said his bureau had reports that many illegal women immigrants have also been arrested and are now in detention awaiting expulsion.

Beninese authorities said they had expelled more than 500 foreigners without papers, including 170 Ghanaians, during the course of three days.

(AFP)

British Universities Set to End Free Tuition

LONDON — Britain's cash-strapped universities are set to approve radical plans this week to ditch the principle of free tuition for full-time undergraduates, *The Guardian* newspaper reported.

In the face of a mounting financial crisis, the universities have put together a plan to raise an extra six billion pounds ($9.3 billion) a year by transferring a large slice of the funding for higher education from the government to students, the newspaper said.

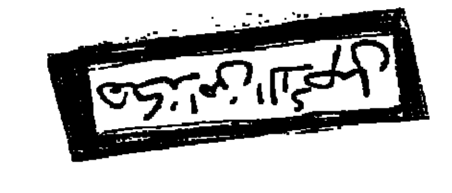
They want undergraduates by the year 2005/06 to take out loans averaging 2,400 pounds a year, to cover a third of tuition costs, which are currently free.

In addition, the present system of cash grants and short-term loans to cover students' living costs is to be replaced by a long-term maintenance loan of 4,475 pounds a year.

Together, these debts would leave the average student after a three-year course with debts of 20,625 pounds, *The Guardian* said, students doing four-year courses and those going on to postgraduate education would face much higher obligations.

The money would be repaid through increased social security contributions, typically over a 20-year period.

(AFP)



Settling an Old Score

Eager to punish her father's killer, bangladesh's prime minister finds vengeance doesn't come easy

In the short and blood-drenched political history of Bangladesh, one night still stands out in the national memory. On August 15, 1975, Sheikh Mujib ur-Rahman, the country's first prime minister and president, was murdered in his home in Dhaka along with 15 members of his family. Rahman was found with 20 bullet wounds — his pipe still clenched in his right hand. His killers later said they had wanted to "save the country" from his corrupt and authoritarian rule.



Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Bangladesh's prime minister, in front of a picture of her murdered father

Mujib's daughter, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, was in Germany at the time, an absence that saved her life. For two decades she has dedicated herself to vindicating her father's name and avenging his murder. In June, Hasina became prime minister after her Awami League Party won national elections. But she is discovering that vengeance doesn't come easily in a land where political change, until recently, has been accompanied by bullets and blood.

The coup in which Mujib died was organized by a group of junior Bangladeshi army officers, who have not been shy about their deed 21 years ago. Immediately after Mujib's death, the government installed after the coup passed an ordinance protecting the involved soldiers from prosecution. In 1979 President Zia ur-Rahman had that law included in the country's constitution, but sent the 14 men into temporary exile in Libya. Subsequently, the officers were offered jobs in Bangladesh's foreign service in an attempt to scatter them safely around the globe. Twelve accepted, taking postings in such far-flung places as Algeria, Argentina, Canada, China and Senegal.

Hasina, who lived for two decades in the house where her family was slaughtered, carefully maintaining the bloodstains and bullet holes in the walls, wants those men back. In one of her first actions as prime minister, she sacked the six coup plotters still in the foreign service and ordered them home. Only one complied; the other five are said to have gone into hiding abroad. Last week she had three of the main conspirators, including the recently returned diplomat, arrested in Dhaka. Two days later she called a national day of mourning on the anniversary of her father's death, the first such observance in 21 years.

Hasina said in a recent interview, "The nation wants the killers to be punished," and public opinion is overwhelmingly in her favor. "There has to be a trial of the killers of Sheikh Mujib ur-Rahman," insists Rirajul Islam Chowdhury, a Dhaka University teacher, "or else it will remain as an assault on the consciousness of the nation." But the law is a major stumbling block. The three former officers were first arrested last week for subversion of national security. However, police later filed a minor charge of illegal weapons possession. Hasina can't prosecute them for murder unless she changes the constitution, and her Awami League doesn't have the necessary strength in Parliament. The 1975 ordinance does, however, contain an interesting technicality: the coup participants were required to apply for certificates proving their involvement and, therefore, clinching their pardons — but apparently few took the trouble. If Hasina gets vengeance after 21 years, it may trickle through a legal loophole.

(Courtesy the Time)

France Seeks More Effective European 'Troika'

PARIS — France, seeking to build a more coherent common European foreign and security policy, has proposed streamlining the ungainly 'troika' that represents the European Union in world affairs, senior French officials say.

The aim is to give the EU's embryonic foreign policy more consistency and come closer to giving foreign countries a single European interlocutor with a telephone number in Brussels.

At present, the 15-nation union is represented in foreign affairs by the so-called Troika of the present, past and future holders of its six-month rotating presidency — currently Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands.

The French idea, floated by European Affairs Minister Michel Barnier in EU reform negotiations last week, is for an improved Troika comprising the presidency, the European Commission's external relations commissioner, and a 'high representative' to coordinate and personify a common foreign and security policy.

EU members broadly agree that the current Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) on institutional reform should give birth to a foreign policy coordinator, whom Paris dubs 'monsieur pesc' after the French acronym for common foreign and security policy.

But while France seeks a high-profile political figure reporting to the European Council, the summit of EU leaders, Germany would prefer a lower-key secretary-general for foreign and security policy, and Britain wants a faceless civil servant.

The French idea would give the Troika greater permanence, since the foreign affairs commissioner and 'monsieur pesc' would each serve a four-year term. Only the presidency would change every six months.

One condition would be that the European Commission had a single commissioner responsible for external affairs, instead of the four who currently share different aspects of the portfolio.

Senior French officials say the EU looks ridiculous when it deals with issues such as Cyprus because of the multiplicity of special envoys and individual initiatives by member states.

France's partners say Paris has contributed mightily to that confusion by sending its own foreign minister without an EU mandate to mediate between Israel and Lebanon in April, and by distancing itself from U.S. strikes on Iraq in contrast to most EU states.

The French retort that a common EU foreign policy does not yet exist, and that even when it does, it will never be a 'single European foreign policy' excluding national initiatives.

French officials say initial response to Barnier's Troika idea was favorable. However some EU diplomats said it could encounter resistance from smaller member states who fear their voice in a common foreign policy would be diminished if they only sat in the Troika for six months instead of 18 at present.

The minister has also privately floated a more radical idea for merging over time the EU's foreign policy think tank with the Secretariat of the Western European Union Defense Body, grouping 10 of the 15 EU states.

In the long term, Barnier believes 'monsieur pesc' should wear a double hat, also serving as secretary general of the WEU. That idea would be anathema to Britain, which rejects any EU control over defense policy.

(Reuter)

S. Korea to Create Russian-Equipped Infantry Battalion

SEOUL — South Korea's Army, traditionally dependent on U.S. arms technology, will create a mechanized infantry battalion equipped with Russian armored combat vehicles, a Defense Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

"The battalion armed with Russia's BMP-3 amphibious armored combat vehicles will make its debut as early as Armed Forced Day on October 1," the spokesman told AFP.

He said that 30 BMP-3 vehicles would be carried here this week by Russian transport planes in time to mark the fifth anniversary of diplo-matic ties between the two nations.

Korean mechanized units, which are equipped with old BMP models.

The 18.7-tonne BMP-3 is capable of cruising 10 kilometers (six miles) per hour in water and carries a main gun which can fire both

South Korea has decided to accept the BMPs as part of Russia's partial repayment of $1.47 billion in loans extended by South Korea to the former Soviet Union.

Ministry officials said the South Korean BMP-3 mounted battalion would have better fire power and maneuverability than any North conventional ammunition and radar-guided missiles.

The decision was announced as a Russian military delegation was in Seoul for talks with South Korean military officials on further weapons sales.

Before full ties were established between Seoul and Moscow in 1990, the Soviet Union had been North Korea's chief arms supplier, while South Korea has relied on U.S. military technology.

(AFP)

Botha Gives Orders to Blow Up Union Offices -- De Kock

PRETORIA — South African ex-President Pieter Botha, gave direct orders for the 1988 bombing of a Johannesburg trade union headquarters in which two people were slightly injured, killer police Colonel Eugene de Kock said Tuesday.

The 48-year-old colonel — nicknamed "Prime Evil" by his colleagues — was giving evidence for a second day in mitigation of sentence in the Pretoria Supreme Court after being found guilty last month on 89 charges, including six of murder.

De Kock said his commander, Brigadier Willem Schoon, told him of orders from "the highest authority" to blow up COSATU House, the headquarters of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), aligned to the then-banned African National Congress.

(AFP)

New Japanese Party Aims to Field 200 Candidates in Coming Election

TOKYO — Health and Welfare Minister Naoto Kan, prospective leader of a new grouping which hopes to become Japan's third political party, announced plans Tuesday to field 200 candidates in upcoming elections.

"We will act positively with the aim of fielding 200 candidates from our party," the popular minister told an inaugural meeting of the group which reportedly attracted 33 members of Parliament.

Jiji press and Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) said 14 members of the left-wing Social Democratic Party (SDP) attended the meeting while up to 10 members of new party Sakigake took part. The rest were independents.

The meeting, which set up a committee to launch the new party, followed a report in the *Yomiuri Shimbun* Tuesday that it would attract at least 51 members of the Lower House, making it the biggest party after the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the opposition New Frontier Party.

The LDP dominates the current coalition formed in mid-1994 which also includes the SDP and Sakigake.

But Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who heads the LDP, is scheduled to meet with the coalition leaders on Thursday to discuss dissolving Parliament for a snap election, widely expected on October 20.

Known as the "Democratic Party", the new grouping has centerd around former Sakigake member Yukio Hatoyama, who quit the centrist party this month to team up with his younger brother Kunio from the opposition New Frontier Party.

"We want people who share our view and we hope our political circle will expand further," the elder Hatoyama said Tuesday.

With an election looming under a new electoral system which has never been put to the test, the latest maneuverings are being closely watched here following the demise of the SDP, once the main opposition party in Japan.

While succeeding in being a coalition partner in each of the three last governments, the SDP has lost much of its traditional left-wing support base due to a series of policy compromises.

The *Yomiuri* report Tuesday said 33 members of the SDP planned to join the new party in addition to seven Sakigae members and 11 independents. Some SDP members plan to make their decision after the SDP officially decides at a national meeting next Monday on its policy towards the new party, it said.

The LDP has 206 seats in Parliament while the New Frontier Party has 167.

(AFP)

Pro-EU Left Battles Populist Right in Greek Vote

ATHENS — Greece's ruling pro-EU socialists are laying claim to the middle ground for next Sunday's early general election in a race with a conservative rightwing opposition which is playing both traditional and populist tunes.

The Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) of Prime Minister Costas Simitis and its main rival New Democracy (ND) under miltiades evert are both grappling with the legacy of veteran politician Andreas Papandreou, Pasok's founder who dominated Greek political life for more than two decades.

He died in June, aged 77, after being forced by serious illness six months earlier to hand over the premiership to Simitis. The poll is a make or break issue for Simitis, who only a year ago was waging a lone battle within Pasok against Papandreou's style of leadership. He was chosen as party chief at the end of June only after a bitter contest with Papandreou loyalists.

Now he has to prove the party can get an honorable score, comparable to the Tally in the last general election in 1993 when Pasok got 46.8 percent of the vote.

The Simitis strategy for reelection is to realign the movement on the center-left as a neo-Pasok, divested of its old bugbears associated with Papandreou populism. He is stressing Pasok's Social Democrat European credentials and a commitment to the Maastricht Treaty and a single currency.

The socialists swept to power here in 1981 with a landslide victory and have held office since then except for a brief spell in government for new democracy in 1990-1993.

The dream this time for ND chief evert is to break that Pasok hold on power once and for all with the help of votes from pensioners, farmers and businesses. They are seen as at a disadvantage in Greek society, and evert is wooing them in terms reminiscent of Papandreou himself.

"It is rightwing populism," complain Simitis supporters. There are also traditional rightwing promises based on 1980s liberalism, of lower taxation and incentives for companies.

ND has to do much better than its 39.3 percent of 1993, so it is banging the nationalist drum with regular accusations that under Simitis, Greece has backed away from Turkey in their dispute over an islet in the Aegean Sea.

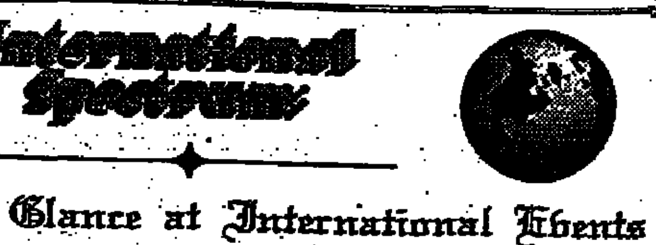
A new leftwing populist movement formed a mere six months ago by Pasok dropout Dimitris Tsovolas is campaigning for sectors of society it says have been left behind by modernization and European integration.

His Social Democratic Movement is getting five to six percent support in opinion polls and Pasok strategists fear it may pick up a dozen seats in the Vouli, as the Greek Parliament of 300 members in one house is known.

Pasok is also at risk on its left flank from the very Orthodox Communist party which scored 4.5 percent last time round and is enjoying something of a revival, and from the Synaspismos alliance of left and "progressive" forces which preaches local autonomy and obtained 2.9 percent support in 1993.

The ND seems to have little to worry about however from the Political Spring (POLA) Movement of Antonis Samaras, despite its 4.8 percent showing in the last election. POLA's hour of glory came when a wave of nationalism surged across Greece during a tense dispute with the neighboring former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

(AFP)



A Glance at International Events

TEHRAN TIMES

Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THU, SEP. 19, 1996; SHAHRIVAR 29, 1375; JAMADIAL-AWAL 5, 1417

Iran Spectrum



A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

WORLD NEWS

Wednesday September 11

Treaty Banning Atomic Blasts Adopted by UN Assembly



After 40 years of debate, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly approved and opened for signature a landmark treaty that would ban nuclear explosions from the world forever.

Taleban Take Over Jalalabad City

The Taleban militia took control of the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said.

Misuari Wins Southern Philippines Vote

Former Muslim separatist leader Nur Misuari was declared winner of a vote for governor of a Muslim autonomous region in the southern Philippines, the official election body said.

Troops Sink Tiger Flotilla, Nine Killed

Government forces sank a flotilla of seven Tamil guerrillas boats in northern Sri Lanka where fresh ground battled killed nine people, the Defense Ministry said.

Thursday September 12

Iraq Fires at Allied Warplanes



Iraq said Thursday it fired missiles at allied warplanes in defiance of U.S. threats of attack and accused Kuwait of an "act of war as the United States prepared to send fighter-bombers to the region.

UN, BNP Sign Oil for Food Contract

The United Nations and the Banque Nationale de Paris signed a contract on anticipation of the opening of an frozen escrow account linked to Iraq and the application of the "food for oil" deal, a UN spokesman said.

14 Die as Hortense Surges Towards U.S. Mainland

Hurricane Hortense, blamed for 14 deaths in the Caribbean, picked up steam as it headed towards the U.S. Mainland on a



path that could threaten New York or other parts of the northeast.

War Crimes Team Opens Another Bosnian Mass Grave



A team of war crimes investigators on Thursday opened a mass grave they believe will provide evidence to convict Serbs accused of massacring thousands of Muslims from the enclave of Srebrenica.

Friday September 13

Iraq Calls For Dialog as U.S. Builds Up Forces

Baghdad toned down its rhetoric on Friday and called for dialog with Washington as the United States built up its forces in the Persian Gulf region for possible strikes against Iraq.

Afghan Military Admits Fall of Laghman Province

The eastern Afghan province of Laghman fell to the Taleban militia, Afghan military sources admitted here Friday.

Okinawa Governor Announces End of Row With Government

Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota announced his willingness to end a one-year row with the central government over his refusal to renew leases for land used by U.S. forces in the southern island prefecture.

Saturday September 14

Syria Rejects Peace Talks Until Israel Negotiates on Golan

Syria on Saturday rejected any resumption of peace talks until Israel agrees to negotiate a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, damping the prospects of U.S. envoy Dennis Ross's trip to the region.

Arab FMs Pledge Support for Iraqi Sovereignty



Arab foreign ministers on Saturday defended Iraq's sovereignty and accused the United States and Turkey of increasing tension in the region.

Clashes Reported as Battle Between Afghan Rivals Looms

Fresh skirmishes between Afghan government forces and Taleban militia raged Saturday as a crucial battle looms at the government stronghold of Sarobi east of Kabul, Afghan sources said.

Bosnian Vote Goes Ahead, Marred by Snarlups, Shooting



Thousands of Bosnians cast their ballots in landmark postwar elections Saturday intended to reunite the divided republic, was marred by traffic snarlups and a shooting.

Sunday September 15

Bossi Proclaims North's Independence

Northern League leader Umberto Bossi proclaimed a self-styled "republic" in Italy's affluent north in the climax to three days of secessionist rallies.

IFOR, OSCE Hail Peaceful Elections

U.S. admiral Joseph Lopez, the commander of the NATO-led peace Implementation Force (IFOR) and OSCE officials hailed the peaceful holding of Bosnia's first post-war general elections.

Arabs Condemn Foreign Interference in Iraq

Arab League foreign ministers condemned foreign interference in Iraq and threatened to reconsider normalizing ties with Israel at a meeting which ended here Sunday.

Lebanon Holds Last Round of Month-Long Elections



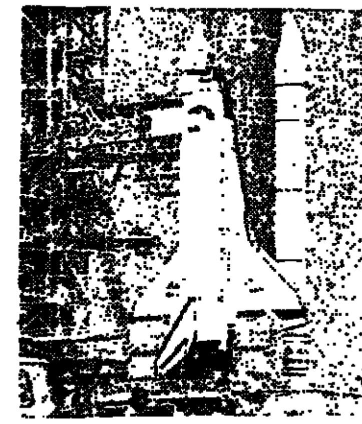
Voters went to the polls in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley in the fifth and final round of month-long parliamentary elections.

Monday September 16

EU Widens Retaliation to U.S. Trade Measures

The European Commission has widened its proposed retaliation to recent U.S. Trade legislation to cover the effects of the d'Amato Bill, which seeks to quash dealings with Iran and Libya.

Atlantis Blasts Off, Finally to Retrieve Stuck Astronaut



Space shuttle Atlantis blasted off to retrieve NASA astronaut Shannon Lucid from Russia's orbiting Mir station, but quickly ran into equipment trouble that threatened to cut the mission short.

Tuesday September 17

Egypt Renews Support For Kuwaiti Integrity

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak voiced support for Kuwait's right to defend its territory during talks with Kuwaiti Information Minister Saud Nasser Al-Sabah, the Egyptian news agency MENA said.

Fights Erupt As Israeli Army Demolishes Home

Scuffles broke out between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians who were protesting the partial demolition of a Palestinian home in Bait-ul-Moqaddas old city.

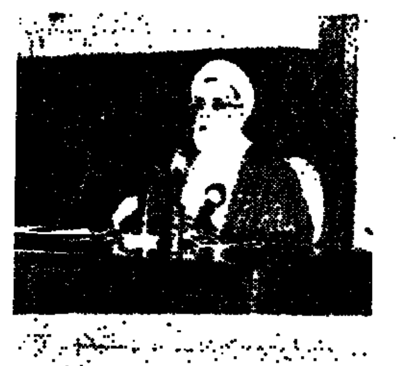
LOCAL NEWS

Wednesday September 11

Rafsanjani Arrives in Harare

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani arrived in Harare on the fifth leg of his six-nation African tour and was extended warm welcome by President Robert Gabriel Mugabe and Zimbabwean people.

Nateq Nouri: U.S. Approved Iraqi Attack



Talking to a group pf reporters on underlying policies which guided Iraq's recent aggression, Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri said Iraq entered into the UN-established safe havens with U.S. approval; otherwise, without such U.S. foreknowledge of Baghdad's intentions, it would not have dared to violate agreed rules.

Thursday September 12

Larijani Calls For Worldwide Encounter

With U.S. unilateral moves deputy chairman of Iranian Majlis' foreign policy commission Javad Larijani in a meeting with Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi called for cooperation of all countries in encountering Washington's unilateral measures.

Iran, Zimbabwe Call For Expansion of South-South Cooperation



The presidents of Iran and Zimbabwe, in a joint communique on Thursday, called for a just international economic order and for the expansion of South-South cooperation.

Kashani: President's Visit Brought Ray of Hope to Africa

Senior Alim, Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani, in his Friday prayer sermons at Tehran University, dwelt on the importance of the Iranian president's African tour and said that unlike exploiters who descended on Africa from the West and East to plunder its natural resources, Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani brought to the continent "the message of truth, sincerity, peace, stability and security."

Saturday September 14

President Rafsanjani Winds Up Six-Nation African Visit

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani wound up his six-nation African visit aimed at strengthening economic ties.

Sunday September 15

Velayati Discusses Afghan Crisis With Lafraie

The acting Afghan Foreign Minister Najibullah Lafraie and Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Akbar Velayati in Izmir reviewed the latest developments in Afghanistan.

Monday September 16

Iran Prepared to Rout Any Covetous Expansionist Power

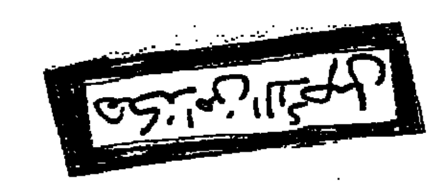
The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, in a meeting here with the commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), considered the armed forces an essential part of the Islamic system and described their major task as protecting the country against the plots hatched by the enemies of Islam.

Tuesday September 17

Leader of Revolution in Orumiyeh

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei arrived in Orumiyeh capital of the northwestern provincce to a warm welcome of huge number of people.

The Leader of the Revolution is to address a gathering of the local people at city's stadium shortly.



IF YOU LAUGH, THE WORLD WILL LAUGH WITH YOU

MUMBAI: Every morning, Jitendra Sanghvi and his clubmates from a local laughter association gather at a public park in Mulund for half an hour of warm-up with deep breathing and chanting followed by extended bouts of giggles, guffaws and gleeful laughter.

In the eight months that the club has been in existence what Mr. Sanghvi and his friends have learnt about laughter seems to validate insights gained by behavioral neurobiologists (for example, social stimuli rather than humor seem to play a far greater role in eliciting laughter).

The first insight into why we laugh was captured in a recent *New York Times* headline which described laughs as "rhythmic bursts of social glue". Indeed, most behaviorists say laughter is about strengthening social bonds. They have shown that people are 30 times more likely to laugh in social settings than when they are alone. And this is precisely what the laughter club members have discovered.

"Earlier, when I jogged in the park, I hardly knew anyone," recalled Mr. Sanghvi, the 46-year-old assistant director of the National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics. "Then some of us started the morning laughter sessions. The results were spectacular and contagious.

"Within no time we had over 200 members with nothing but word-of-mouth publicity about laughter as "the best medicine: What most of us cherish is an enhanced sense of social bonding and kinship." Mr. Sanghvi added. "It's like one large extended family which can be counted upon to share personal moments of happiness and grief."

According to Mahadev Apte, a cultural anthropologist at Duke University in Durham, "Laughter occurs when people are comfortable with another, when they feel open and free. And the more the laughter, the more bonding within the group. "What complicates matters is that people also laugh when they are nervous or disappointed, or even scared and helpless, and often when they are cued by live or canned laughter.

Experts like Mr. Apte, whose book on humor and laughter was published by Cornell University, say this feedback loop of bonding-laughter-more bonding plus a desire not to be singled out from the group, may explain why laughter is often contagious. Indeed, as the laughter clubmates begin their daily round of hoots and heehaws, onlookers, including truck drivers and cleaners peering from the Mumpared to the most famous outbreak of contagious laughter which occurred in Tanganyika in 1992. What began as an isolated fit of laughter (and sometimes crying) in a group of 12- to 18-year-old schoolgirls rapidly grew to near-epidemic proportions that lasted six months, forcing officials to close schools.

An even more significant insight offered by Robert S. Provine of the University of Maryland at Baltimore is that most laughter has little to do with jokes or funny stories. Known as the anthropologist of amusement, Mr. Provine has been seeking answers to questions which science has not deigned to consider before: Why do we laugh and when and what bai-Agra road adjoining the park, begin to grin and laugh as well.

However, their "infectious performance" is nothing comsort of comments trigger laughter; do women laugh more than men and how does one physically differentiate laughter from, say, speech or any other human utterance.

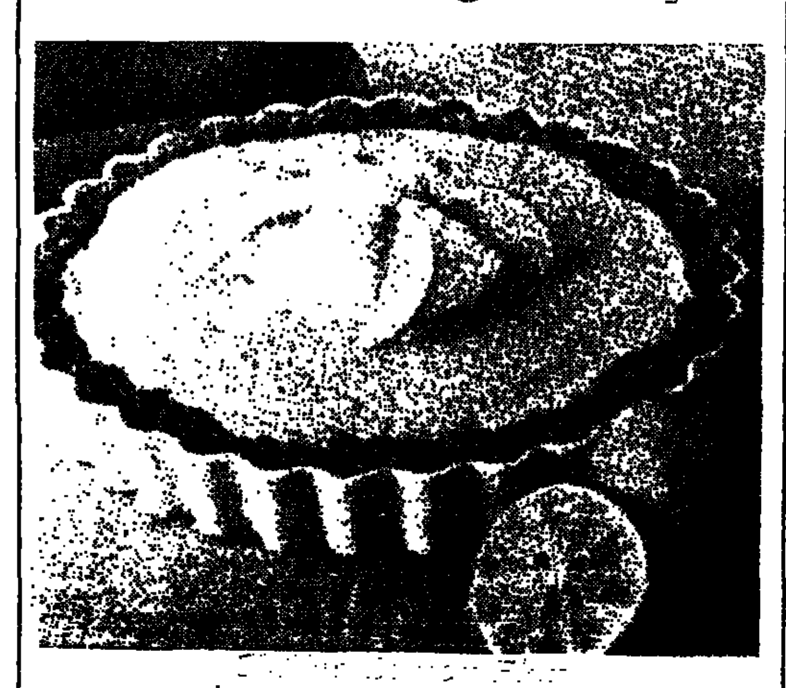
After eavesdropping on 1,200 bouts of laughter among shoppers in malls and people in other public places, Mr. Provine reports in the *American Scientist* that "less than 20 percent of the laughter in our sample of laugh episodes was 'triggered by anything remotely resembling a formal effort at humor. Most of the laughter seemed to follow rather banal remarks such as 'Are you sure?' and 'It was nice meeting you'. Even our funniest of the 1,200 pre-laugh comments were not necessarily howlers — 'You don't have to drink, just buy the drinks'. Therefore, mutual playfulness, in-group feeling and positive emotional tone, not comedy, mark the social settings of most naturally occurring laughter."

Mr. Provine's finding has been corroborated by the Mulund club's experience. "To start the so-called tidal wave of laughter, you don't need a gag or punchline," says Sundar Shetty, a 51-year-old canteen contractor who regularly leads the circle of members around him into laughter. "You need a trigger, someone who laughs more easily and infectiously than others. What is more, most people find it very difficult to laugh on command. But if they are led — with a laugh or a joke — their initially stilted attempts seem to turn into genuine peals of hilarity."

Indeed, according to Mr. Provine, the difficulty of faking laughter seems to provide vital clues about the nature of laughter. "We can smile on command albeit stiffly, and we can talk on command, but laughter has an essential spontaneous element to it," he writes. "It is a vocalization of a mood state, rather than a cognitive act, and as such difficult to fake; just as it is hard to fake tears (except with stage experience). This means laughter arises not from our conscious mind but from something very deep in our animal nature."

(Courtesy the Times of India)

Entertaining in Style



You will need...	*For the flan case.*
	4 oz. digestive biscuits
	2 oz. butter
	1 level tablespoon castor sugar
	For the filling:
Preparation time	1/4 pint double cream
15 minutes	6 oz. can condensed milk
	2 large lemons
Cooking time	*For the topping:*
8 minutes	lightly whipped double cream
	fresh or crystallized lemon slices
Oven setting	
310°F; gas mark 2	

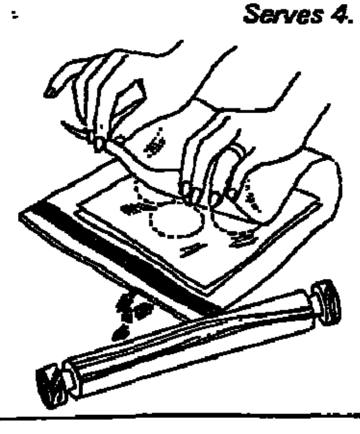
Crush digestive biscuits with a rolling pin. Melt butter in a pan, add sugar then blend in biscuit crumbs. Mix well. Turn mixture into a 7-inch pie plate or flan dish and press into shape round base and sides of plate, with the back of a spoon. Bake in a slow oven for 8 minutes. Remove from the oven and leave to cool. Do not turn the flan case out of dish as it will crumble.

Mix together cream, condensed milk and finely grated lemon rind. Slowly beat in lemon juice. Pour mixture into the flan case and chill for several hours until firm.

Just before serving decorate the flan with a whirl of lightly whipped cream and the lemon slices.

Serves 4.

QUICK TIP



When crushing biscuits with a rolling pin, lie a clean tea towel on the table and put the biscuits between greaseproof paper on the tea towel and fold over.

Apply pressure with the rolling pin. The tea towel will remain clean.

QUIZ

Are You Alien to Tact?

Many of us speak before we think of the impact our statements might make on others. Many who pride themselves on their frankness, shoot verbal holes through their victims. For those who feel even a wee bit mortified by their tactlessness, this test will assess your level of tact.

In the following situations, select the response you think would be nearest your own:

1. A friend tells you his/her romance or marriage has come to an end. You would:

a) ask what happened.

b) say you don't want to be involved.

c) listen to as much as he or she wants to tell you.

2. You meet a friend whom you have not seen for a long time. This friend has gained far too much weight. You would:

a) tell your friend that he or she has gained too much weight.

b) say something complimentary about his or her appearance.

c) make no comment

3. A neighbor tells you about a bargain he or she found. You know where the same item could have been purchased for less. You would:

a) tell your neighbor that he or she has made a mistake.

b) tell your neighbor to try another store.

c) avoid comments on whether or not the purchase was a bargain.

4. To an acquaintance, whose father is in hospital for serious operation, you would:

a) say, "Stop worrying. If the operation is fatal, your father will never know about it."

b) not talk about operations because the idea upsets you.

c) say that you have confidence in modern medicine and medicinal procedures.

5. You are on an outing with a group of coworkers. One discovers he or she has no money. You would:

a) announce proudly that you will take care of the expenses.

b) say nothing.

c) whisper that you have enough money to cover the expenses.

6. You are going to be interviewed for a job and you know that the employer is conservative. You would:

a) wear your casual clothes anyway.

b) put on very sedate, outmoded clothing.

c) wear conservative but modern business attire

7. You are invited to dinner, but to your taste, the main dish is unpalatable. You would:

a) shove your plate away.

b) say that you're on a diet.

c) eat a small portion while making interesting conversation.

Answers:

1. a) 3 points B) 0 points c) 10 points
2. a) 0 points B) 0 points c) 10 points
3. a) 0 points B) 5 points c) 10 points
4. a) 0 points B) 0 points c) 10 points
5. a) 0 points B) 3 points c) 10 points
6. a) 0 points B) 3 points c) 10 points
7. a) 0 points B) 3 points c) 10 points

Your Score

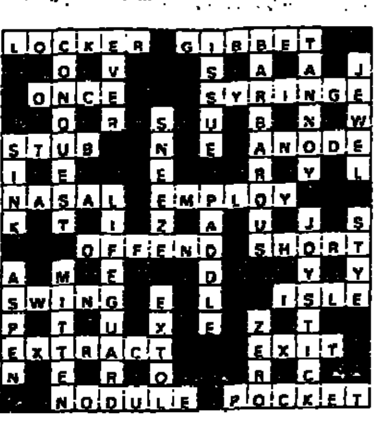
70-80 You make friends easily and are usually not hurt by people because of the consideration you display for others.

40-69 You tend to be overtly frank and honest. Sometimes you step on the toes of others.

0-39 You are severely inconsiderate of other people's feeling.

(Courtesy Let's Get Quizzical: Sterling Books)

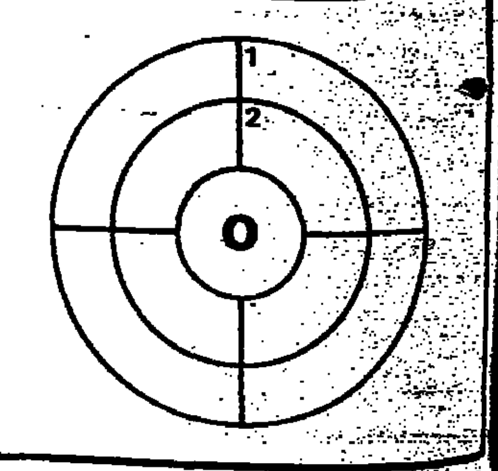
Answers to Last Week's KEYWORD



Wheel Write

Given the central letter "O", can you place the other letters in the segments of the circle so that two words are spelt clockwise (starting from the numbers 1 and 2), and four three-letter words are also formed reading from the centre outwards?

D E E F N G R T U



Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: Norway

On May 23, 1996, three days after the opening of the whaling season, the crew of the fishing boat Senet nailed its first minke whale off the coast of northern Norway. News of the killing of the two-ton mammal spread quickly through the Norwegian electronic media; the next morning the catch was also noted by the national press, complete with photographs of the nearly dismembered booty.

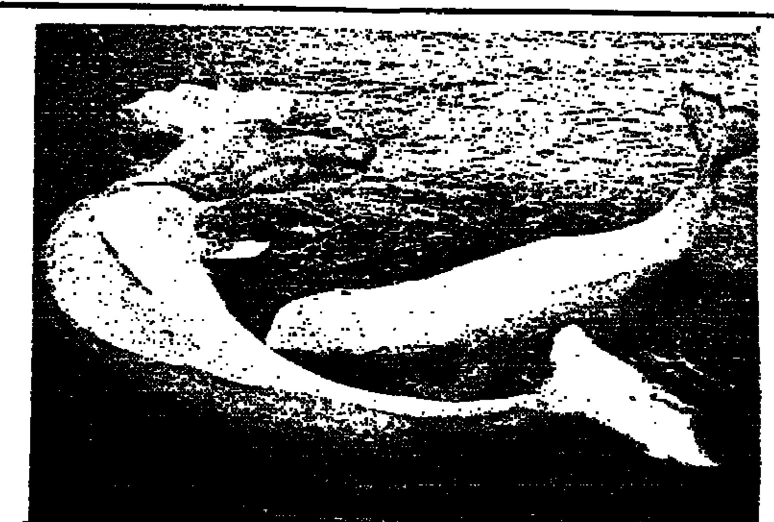
But this year Norway's fisherfolk cannot go about their business in a completely sanguine fashion. The whale hunt is taking place with considerable security precautions, designed to thwart any possible acts of sabotage by over-zealous opponents of whaling. The Norwegian police, working with Interpol, is making sure that the fishermen are not hampered in their work by troublemakers, and the country's foreign minister has promised to bring the navy into play if necessary in order to prevent the defenders of whales from illegal actions within Norwegian waters.

Clearly, Norway is willing to go to some lengths in defense of its whaling. The cost of a security cordon to protect the whalers from the unwanted attentions of whaling opponents is just one item among several. A second element, though an intangible one, is the political capital that Oslo is obviously willing to risk in its defense of the controversial practice. The U.S. has been threatening for some time to impose sanctions against the Norwegians unless they give up their atavistic behavior. This year too, just before the start of the whaling season, Washington called on Norway in shrill tones to cancel the hunt for the great mammals but without naming any specific punitive measures to be implemented should the whaling be continued. Oslo is faced by similar pressures from the EU, with Britain's minister for the environment as an especially zealous standard-bearer.

Norway's stubborn and politically risky attitude is all the more surprising in view of the fact that it does not involve the defense of an industry important to the national economy, but merely an economically insignificant sideline of its fishing fleet. This year, no more than 34 Norwegian fishing vessels are licensed to hunt down a maximum of 425 minke whales, each ship with a crew of between five and eight. Thus, the livelihoods of no more than 270 people will depend on whaling—and even then, not exclusively. No fisherman can afford to concentrate exclusively on hunting whales. In most cases, the income generated from whaling adds up to no more than one fourth of a fish family's total income.

Clearly, the economic importance of this much-maligned activity can safely be described as modest, at best. By their own testimony, the Norwegians have made efforts to remove the stigma of bloody slaughter from this traditional occupation.

According to Oslo's foreign ministry, Norway has played a leading role in the development of new whaling methods that insure a quick and painless death for the huge animals. Over the past 15 years it has been possible to reduce the average time between the firing of a harpoon and the death of a targeted minke whale from 11 minutes to just three.


Beluga whales stranded by a fast ebb tide.

Norway has also made systematic efforts to increase the available knowledge about the size of the whale population. According to Oslo's own estimates, there are currently 110,000 minke whales in the northeastern Atlantic.

Despite all this, the International Whaling Commission (IWC)—which regulates whaling worldwide and to which Oslo remained obedient for decades—has refused to accept the Norwegian position or its biological rationale. George Blichfeldt, secretary of the High North Alliance, an industry group of Nordic fishermen and whalers, expresses disappointment that the IWC is no longer open to scientific argumentation in this area. From his standpoint, the commission has drifted more and more into the camp of uncompromising whale defenders. Norway no longer has any allies in the IWC.

Why are the Norwegians so determinedly standing up to the rest of the world? Talking to people on the Lofotens, Norway's whaling mecca, illuminates many aspects of the situation but produces no single decisive answer to the question. Blickfeldt indicates that the hunt may be regarded as a means of controlling the minke whale population. Is the point to protect the commercially interesting fish species, herring and cod, from the insatiable hunger of the great mammals? Blichfeldt is unwilling to go quite that far. He characterizes whaling as "a value in its own right," which is worth defending on principle.

Other advocates of whaling produce culinary arguments, insisting that whale meat is part of the traditional Norwegian diet and is also very tasty indeed. They also maintain that a whale steak is a piece of ecologically balanced food, which cannot be said of most pork chops. But is Norway willing to take on the world's great powers in defense of its national eating habits?

The Norwegians are proud of the fact that even the most god-forsaken corners of their land are still populated. But in order to protect these remote communities from dying out, the central government must insure that they have a basis for their livelihood; part of that is fishing, and of course whaling as well.

Fishing constituted a major object of dispute in the 1994 debate over Norwegian entry into the EU (membership was turned down in a referendum), a debate which openly and clearly raised issues of national sovereignty. The same issue is doubtless behind the current debate on whaling—and this time, as in 1994, the Norwegians will not permit outside threats to deter them from their determination to hold onto unrestricted sovereignty. (Courtesy of *Swiss Review*, No. 8, August 1996.)

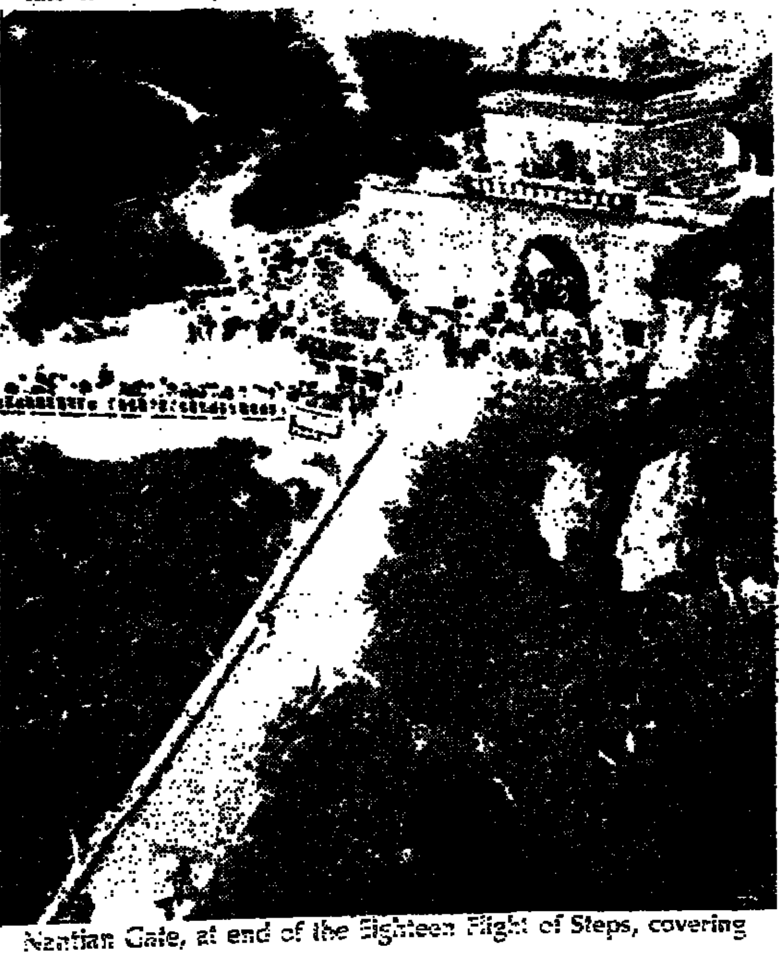
Travelogue

Majestic Mount Taishan

Rising straight from the ground of the North China Plain in central Shandong Province, Mt. Taishan is considered the first of the five sacred mountains in China. It is a scenic mountain to which pilgrimages by kings of successive feudal dynasties have added a rich cultural legacy.

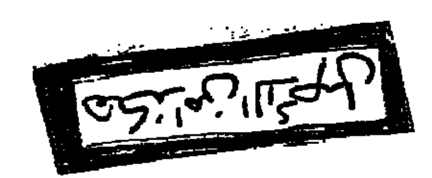
At the foot of the 1,545-meter-high mountain is the Temple to the God of Mt. Taishan (Dai Miao), an architectural group covering 90,000 square meters where emperors offered sacrifices. Over 140 inscribed stelae, commemorative tablets and monuments stand inside the temple. The main hall is embellished with a colored mural 3.3 meters high and 62 meters long. Done in the Song Dynasty, it shows the ritual ceremony and pomp of the pilgrimage of Song Dynasty Emperor Zhenzong (r. 998-1022) to Mt. Taishan through 657 vivid characters in different roles and attitudes.

Not far from the temple is the Mt. Taishan Archway (Daizong Fang) which is the starting point for the climb up the mountain. Here, a stone path twists and turns between serried peaks, precipitous rocks, hardy pines and cypresses to rise and fall with the peaks and crests until it leads to the South Gate to Heaven (Nantian Men) which seems to be lost in the clouds. The 10-kilometer distance covers the Eighteen Mountain Bends (Shiba Pan) in over 7,000 stone steps. Near the gate to the South Gate to Heaven the steps become steeper along a narrow path stretching like a ladder to the sky. Cable car service is also available. Climbers, however, are rewarded with the sight of many inscribed stones and monuments by scholars and poets praising and expressing reverence for the mountain.


Nantian Gate, at end of the Eighteen Flight of Steps, covering over 70,000 stone steps.

The summit of Mt. Taishan is the Heavenly Pillar Peak (Tianzhu Feng), also known as the Jade Emperor Peak (Yuhuang Ding). The famous view from the peak is at sunrise—a brief moment during which the morning sun, glowing red, rises from the horizon in the east. This sight has perhaps inspired more scholars and writers, from past to present, than any other mountain view in China. This may be attributed to Mt. Taishan's rising straight up from flat ground with a vast expanse of a great plain stretching to the seashore on its east.

(Courtesy of *TOURISM, China Handbook Series, 1984.*)



Are Poisonous Snakes Edible?

Tehran Times Service

A belief once commonly held was that the flesh of venomous snakes was poisonous under some conditions. When a snake was at peace with the world it was thought the venom was all concentrated in the head. When the snake became angry, the venom was carried by the blood all over the body, and if the snake was killed while in a rage the flesh would be poisonous. The way to kill a snake, so that the flesh would not be poisonous, was to sneak up to a sleeping snake and cut off its head before it had a chance to become angry. If this was done, the flesh even of a venomous snake was quite safe to eat.

Actually, the flesh of venomous snakes is not poisonous. Even the venom itself is harmless in the digestive tract, unless there are breaks in the mouth, stomach, or intestine. Digestive juices destroy the venom. Only if the venom enters the bloodstream can it cause damage.

Snakes are eaten in practically all countries where the reptiles are large enough and numerous enough to make collecting worthwhile. In some areas certain snakes have a high market value and scientific expeditions that depend upon native collectors may find themselves bidding against appetites and local markets for choice specimens. In the U.S. canned rattlesnake meat has been on the market for years, and in Hong Kong restaurants snakes are a delicacy.

Laughter Capsule

Laughter on 23rd Floor

My cousin Frank and his wife live on the 23rd floor of a high-rise. One day, after shopping for groceries, they discovered that the elevator was not working.

Since some of their purchases were perishable, they decided to walk up. To make the trip more pleasant, they took turns telling jokes. When they finally reached the 23rd floor, though, Frank paused and then reached into his pocket. "I have the best joke," he said. "I left the keys in the car."

Hair Does It

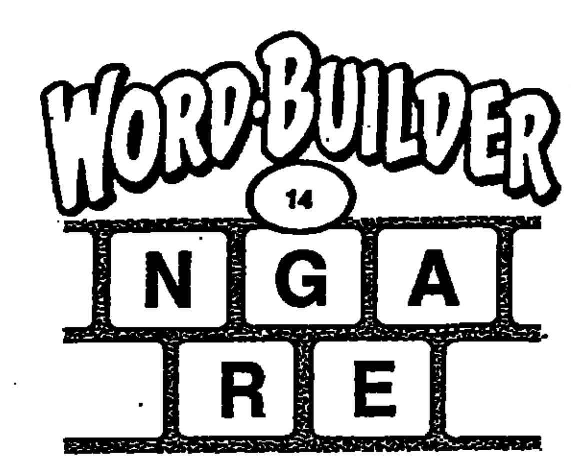
My husband was helping our fourth-grader, Jeremy, memorize the state capitals by associating the names with ideas. Albanyy, for example, ends in "ny," which is the abbreviation for New York. When they came to Pennsylvania, my husband suggested that he is from that state and that he is self-conscious about his thinning hair. "Think of your dad. He's losing his hair, Har-ris-burg," my husband said. Later, when they were reviewing, I was impressed with how many capitals Jeremy had learned.

"Okay, Jeremy," my husband said, "What's the capital of Pennsylvania?"

Our son replied, "Baldimore?"

Answers to last week's GET ON TARGET:

Steer, nest, rest, west, sent, rent seen, seer, sere, sow, set, ere, reset, ten, were, tee, new, newer, renew, tree, net, ewe, sewer, western, wet.



How many commonly-used words of three or more letters can you make from the five letters above? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. No foreign words or words that begin with a capital letter are allowed. Plurals may be included. You should find at least one five-letter word. The encircled number represents the highest goal.

(Answers will appear next week.)

Dear Sir,

Salam.

Tehran Times is a daily of international repute. But, I am greatly disappointed at finding that it has no "Letters to the Editor" column, no E-mail address.

Muslims living abroad are very much eager for communication with the Iranian people.

So, in this age linked by the information highway, I think communication among Muslim countries would be facilitated if you introduce a "Letters to the Editor" column and E-mail address in your paper.

Allah Keep Iran.

Sincerely yours,

Ahmed Fazlullah

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Ed's note: We do have a "Letters to the Editor" column which appears in our Thursday weekly supplement every now and then under the heading "The Mail." Our E-Mail access tel. number is 8809437/8809470.

Today in History

1955 - Argentina's President Juan Peron is ousted from office after revolts by army and navy.

1962 - China announces it has shelved plans to turn nation into an industrial power within a few years.

1968 - Czech Foreign Minister Jiri Hajek resigns under Soviet pressure.

1971 - Outgoing U.N. Secretary-General U Thant pleads with world organization to grant his successor more power.

1972 - Israeli diplomat is killed and another injured when letter bomb explodes at Israeli Embassy in London.

1988 - Government of Poland's Prime Minister Zbigniew Messner resigns after criticism of its management of the economy.

1989 - Arrest warrants issued in Colombia for two Israelis accused of training death squads for drug lords.

1993 - Israel's supreme court clears the way for the release of John Demjanjuk, setting aside appeals for a new Nazi war crimes trial after delaying his departure five times.

1994 - U.S. troops land in Haiti by sea and air.

CANDID CAMERA

Photo: Abbas Kowsari

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1963 - U.S. President John F. Kennedy goes before U.N. General Assembly and proposes joint U.S.-Soviet expedition to Moon.

1972 - Explosive devices concealed in envelopes and mailed to Israeli officials are discovered in at least six cities around world.

1974 - Estimated death toll is put at thousands as hurricane lashes Central American nation of Honduras.

1977 - Vietnam is admitted to United Nations.

1978 - South Africa's Prime Minister John Vorster announces his resignation.

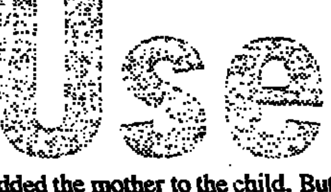
1988 - Soldiers from two more army units in Haiti oust their commanders in revolt that started three days previously.

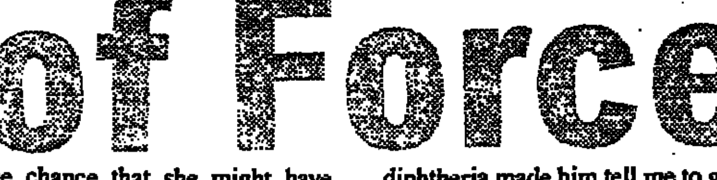
1989 - Indian peacekeeping troops declare ceasefire in their two-year-old battle against Tamil guerrillas fighting for independent nation.

1993 - Fearing the economy is sliding toward recession, Japan's Central Bank cuts its key interest rate by 0.75 percentage points to a record low of 1.75 percent.

1994 - Ships rescue thousands of villagers as two volcanoes erupt in Papua, New Guinea.

The Use of Force





By William Carlos Williams

William Carlos Williams is known primarily as a poet, but he has occasionally expressed himself in prose in the form of short stories, novels and essays. He has also practiced medicine for forty years in his home town, Rutherford, New Jersey. In "The Use of Force," the main character is a doctor; in fact, the story is told in the first person, form the doctor's point of view. Dr. Williams undoubtedly drew upon his experiences as a physician in the telling of this story. But it is well to remember that it is a piece of fiction, not a case history. This brief story centers around the conflict that arises during the doctor's visit to a sick child. Out of this conflict emerges the theme of "the use of force." The story appears in Make Light of It, first published in 1933.

They were new patients to me, all I had was the name, Olson. "Please come down as soon as you can, my daughter is very sick."

When I arrived I was met by the mother, a big startled looking woman, very clean and apologetic who merely said, "Is this the doctor?" and let me in. "In the back," she added. "You must excuse us, doctor, we have her in the kitchen where it is warm. It is very damp here sometimes."

The child was fully dressed and sitting on her father's lap near the kitchen table. He tried to get up, but I motioned for him not to bother, took off my overcoat and started to look things over. I could see that they were all very nervous, eyeing me up and down distrustfully. As often, in such cases, they weren't telling me more than they had to, it was up to me to tell them; that's why they were spending three dollars on me.

The child was fairly eating me up with her cold, steady eyes, and no expression to her face whatever. She did not move and seemed, inwardly, quiet; an unusually attractive little thing, and as strong as a heifer in appearance. But her face was flushed, she was breathing rapidly, and I realized that she had a high fever. She had magnificent blonde hair, in profusion. One of those picture children often reproduced in advertising leaflets and the photogravure sections of the Sunday papers.

"She's had a fever for three days," began the father, "and we don't know what it comes from. My wife has given her things, you know, like people do, but it don't do no good. And there's been a lot of sickness around. So we tho't you'd better look her over and tell us what is the matter."

As doctors often do I took a trial shot at it as a point of departure. "Had she had a sore throat?"

Both parents answered me together, "No... NO, she says her throat don't hurt her."

"Does your throat hurt you?" added the mother to the child. But the little girl's expression didn't change nor did she move her eyes from my face.

"Have you looked?"

"I tried to," said the mother, "but I couldn't see."

As it happens we had been having a number of cases of diphtheria in the school to which this child went during that month and we were all, quite apparently, thinking of that, though no one had as yet spoken of the thing.

"Well," I said, "suppose we take a look at the throat first." I smiled in my best professional manner and asking for the child's first name I said, "Come on, Mathilda, open your mouth and let's take a look at your throat."

Nothing doing.

"Aw, come on," I coaxed, just open your mouth wide and let me take a look. Look," I said opening both hands wide, "I haven't anything in my hands. Just open up and let me see."

"Such a nice man," put in the mother. "Look how kind he is to you. Come on, do what he tells you to. He won't hurt you."

At that I ground my teeth in disgust. If only they wouldn't use the word "hurt" I might be able to get somewhere. But I did not allow myself to be hurried or disturbed but speaking quietly and slowly I approached the child again.

As I moved my chair a little nearer suddenly with one catlike movement both her hands clawed instinctively for my eyes and she almost reached them too. In fact she knocked my glasses flying and they fell, though unbroken, several feet away from me on the kitchen floor.

Both the mother and father almost turned themselves inside out in embarrassment and apology. "You bad girl," said the mother, taking her and shaking her by one arm. "Look what you've done The nice man..."

"For heaven's sake, I broke in. "Don't call me a nice man to her. I'm here to look at her throat on the chance that she might have diphtheria and possibly die of it. But that's nothing to her. Look here," I said to the child, "we're going to look at your throat. You're old enough to understand what I'm saying. Will you open it now by yourself or shall we have to open it for you?"

Not a move. Even her expression hadn't changed. Her breaths however were coming faster and faster. Then the battle began. I had to do it. I had to have a throat culture for her own protection. But first I told the parents that it was entirely up to them. I explained the danger but said that I would not insist on a throat examination so long as they would take the responsibility.

"If you don't do what the doctor says you'll have to go to the hospital," the mother admonished her severely.

Oh yeah? I had to smile to myself. After all, I had already fallen in love with the savage brat, the parents were contemptible to me.

In the ensuing struggle they grew more and more abject, crushed, exhausted while she surely rose to magnificent heights of insane fury of effort bred of her terror of me.

The father tried his best, and he was a big man but the fact that she was his daughter, his shame at her behavior and his dread of hurting her made him release her just at the critical moment several times when I had almost achieved success, till I wanted to kill him. But his dread also that she might have diphtheria made him tell me to go on, go on though he himself was almost fainting, while the mother moved back and forth behind us raising and lowering her hands in an agony of apprehension.

"Put her in front of you on your lap," I ordered, "and hold both her wrists."

But as soon as he did the child let out a scream. "Don't, you're hurting me. Let go of my hands. Let them go I tell you." Then she shrieked terrifyingly, hysterically. "Stop it! Stop it! You're killing me!"

"Do you think she can stand it, doctor! said the mother.

"You get out," said the husband to his wife. "Do you want her to die of diphtheria?"

"Come on now, hold her" I said.

Then I grasped the child's head with my left hand and tried to get the wooden tongue depressor between her teeth. She fought, with clenched teeth, desperately! But now I also had grown furious at a child. I tried to hold myself down but I couldn't. I know how to expose a throat for inspection. And I did my best. When finally I got the wooden spatula behind the last teeth and just the point of it into the mouth cavity, she opened up for an instant but before I could see anything she came down again and gripping the wooden blade between her molars she reduced it to splinters before I could get it out again.

"Aren't you ashamed," the mother yelled at her. "Aren't you ashamed to act like that in front of the doctor?"

"Get me a smooth-handled spoon of some sort," I told the mother. "We're going through with this." The child's mouth was already bleeding. Her tongue was cut and she was screaming in wild hysterical shrieks. Perhaps I should have desisted and come back in an hour or more. No doubt it would have been better. But I have seen at least two children lying dead in bed of neglect in such cases, and feeling that I must get a diagnosis now or never I went at it again. But the worst of it was that I too had got beyond reason. I could have torn the child apart in my own fury and enjoyed it. It was a pleasure to attack her. My face was burning with it.

The damned little brat must be protected against her own idiocy, one says to one's self at such times. Others must be protected against her. It is a social necessity. And all these things are true. But a blind fury, a feeling of adult shame, bred of a longing for muscular release are the operatives. One goes on to the end.

In a final unreasoning assault I overpowered the child's neck and jaws. I forced the heavy silver spoon back of her teeth and down her throat till she gagged. And there it was — both tonsils covered with membrane. She had fought valiantly to keep me from knowing her secret. She had been hiding that sore throat for three days at least and lying to her parents in order to escape just such an outcome as this.

Now truly she *was* furious. She had been on the defensive before but now she attacked. Tried to get off her father's lap and fly at me while tears of defeat blinded her eyes.



ANIMAL CRACKERS

